



## Joan Marie Hanson

February 19, 1938 - March 22, 2025

Joan Bucks Hanson, aged 87, of Ferndale passed away at Whatcom Hospice House in Bellingham on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Joan led an adventurous life as: a journalist; a civil rights advocate; a historian/linguist/translator; a playwright/actress; a second Dan Taekwondo black belt/fitness instructor; a volunteer at Ferndale's Pioneer Park and with the Assistance League.

Joan was born on February 19, 1938, in Miami, the only child of Marie S. and Harold W. Bucks. Spiritually, Joan was a Buddhist and student of eastern philosophies. Her lifelong interest in limited government, local history, and culture motivated pursuits in journalism, theater, and historic preservation. Throughout the 60's and 70's Joan worked as a reporter and editor for news providers around Miami. Her journalism garnered recognition including a National Headliner award for coverage of the 1968 revolution in Santo Domingo.

Joan moved to Ferndale, Washington in 1997 with her late husband Steve, where he died in 2013. Joan was active in Whatcom County Civics. She began a fitness training business, Still Kicking, and taught the Silver Sneakers Program at the YMCA. Joan began volunteering with the Assistance League and Pioneer Park.

Larry Hanson, who also lost his wife of many years, Carol Hanson. He joined

the Silver Sneakers Program to stay active during her illness. The class was taught by Joan where they met and developed a friendship. The relationship continued and romance developed. They were married in June 2018. Joan and Larry enjoyed outings with family, reading, discussing current news, doing instructional demos and guiding tours at Pioneer Village (Pioneer Park, Ferndale).

Larry was fully devoted to Joan and cared for her throughout her short-term illness.

Joan was preceded in death by her first husband Steve, her parents Marie Sharit Bucks (1990) and Harold Bucks (1981). She is survived by her husband Larry and his family, and her lifelong friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Friday, April 25th at the Tillicum House in Pioneer Park (2000 Cherry Street, Ferndale) from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

# Tribute Wall



“Good friends, companions, and associates are the whole of the spiritual life.” Thank you for your friendship, Joan. You are forever loved!

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**Peggy Uppiano** - May 03, 2025 at 12:00 AM