



## Donalyn M. "Donnie" Lemone

August 24, 1950 - October 17, 2024

Donnie Lemone was born Donalyn Marie Shields at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley on August 24, 1950 and passed away in Oakland on October 17, 2024.

She was raised in El Cerrito by her parents Donald and Evelyn (Mowat) Shields. After graduating from El Cerrito High, Donnie took classes at Chabot JC before relocating to San Jose to pursue her Bachelor's at SJSU. She eventually earned her teaching credential from Cal State Hayward. It was during her time at San Jose State that she met Allan, her husband of 48 years, on a camping trip. The two were married on November 11, 1975 and moved to Benicia, CA on May 1, 1976.

Donnie spent nearly 20 years as an educator in the Benicia and Vallejo school districts, teaching preschool, kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. Her creativity and passion for teaching and the arts drove Donnie to establish extra-curricular activities for the city of Benicia Parks and Recreation Department: Her 'Mom and Me Arts' classes introduced children aged two to five to the many wonders of the art world, and her 'Babysitting Competency Training' taught 10-14 year olds a money making skill in a safe and fun environment.

In the late 90's, Donnie stepped away from teaching to become a full time

homemaker. As a devout wife and mom of two boys, Donnie supported her family to the fullest: She never missed a sporting event, school activity or teaching moment. She was always the proudest in the stands and usually the loudest.

Donnie was magnetic and social. She will forever be remembered for her authenticity, free-spiritedness, and unfiltered passion for life; especially when it came to her family, animals, and the arts. She was the best Mom, Grandmother and Dog Mom the world has ever seen.

Donnie is survived by her husband Allan Lemone of Benicia; sons Scott Lemone of Long Beach, Pete Lemone (Kaitlin) of Sebastopol; grandson Moses (Pete); granddaughters Gianna (Pete) and Angela (Scott); her dog Lily and turtle Thomas.

A celebration of life is scheduled for noon on Sunday November 10th at the Benicia Clock Tower, 1189 Washington St, Benicia, CA 94510. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to St. Paul's Food Bank, <http://stpaulsbenicia.org/giving/>.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

NOV **10**. 12:00 PM (PT)

Benicia Clock Tower  
1189 Washington St  
Benicia, CA 94510-3239  
(707) 746-4285

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ Kathy and I first met Donnie while our children were attending St Dominics school in Benicia. Donnie was such a bright beautiful spirit that lit up any room she entered. As the years passed we stayed in touch and when we began working with Allan and Donnie on various projects we became very close friends. Donnie was a joyous spirit that brought love and happiness wherever she went. She made us feel like family. She always made our day better just by seeing her. While we are shocked and saddened by her passing, we are forever thankful for her friendship and love. Our love and prayers go out to all of the Lemone family.

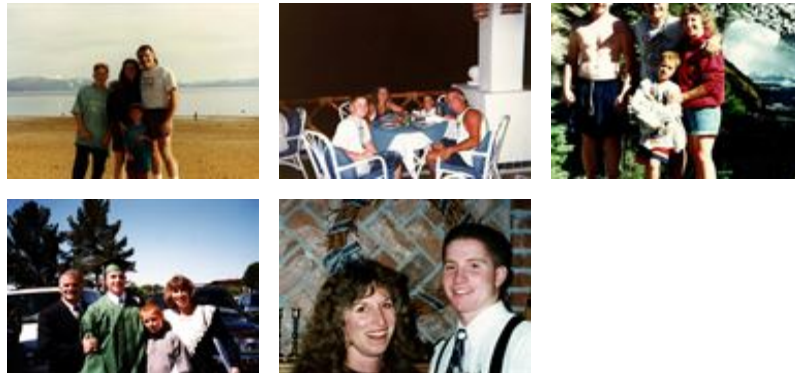
*Rick and Kathy Brown*

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**Rick and Kathy Brown** - November 10, 2024 at 12:31 PM



“ 127 files added to the album LifeTributes



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**Passalacqua Funeral Chapel** - November 07, 2024 at 12:47 PM

MG

“ My heart had broken when hearing of the sad news. Donnie was always so friendly to me during our children's (Pete & Melanie) elementary years. I still remember her bright eyes & contagious smile. She always made me laugh when sharing her stories. Rest In Peace, sweet lady. We send our deepest condolences & prayers.  
~Mary Ann & Mel Gaoaen and Family

Mary Ann Gaoaen - November 05, 2024 at 07:27 PM

AA

I'm sorry for being late to this. She was my Kindergarten teacher and later took her babysitting class. A life long influence and I'm so sad to learn of her passing. She wad an amazing person. Rest in peace Mrs Lemone

Anthony Adams - May 04, 2025 at 12:29 AM

SG

“ Steve and Sue Gibbs purchased the Florist Choic e Bouquet for the family of Donalyn M. "Donnie" Lemone.



Steve and Sue Gibbs - November 03, 2024 at 08:07 PM

SG

“ Donnie and I met when so many of us moved to this small town that we love. WE all believed that we needed to be involved in the future of Benicia in the 70's. We saw the potential as it began to grow and grow and grow. Donnie and Allan and I participated in many political discussions and talked about how Benicia could be this wonderful little city that it has now become. Donnie was always so supportive and bubbly. I think enjoyed her kids Scott and Pete a lot and of course her partnership with Allan. They will all miss her. She was a loving mother and friend to many. Please accept my condolences for her loss. It seems unexpected and too soon. Enjoy all your memories! Susan Gibbs and Steve Gibbs

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**Susan Gibbs** - November 03, 2024 at 07:59 PM

DL

“ Donnie and I loved talking about our boys that turned into men. Somehow we thought that wouldn't happen. Actually we had a lot of fun conversations. As I'm sure many people did with Donny. She was very happy, easy going and relaxed. There was something funny that I had wanted to tell her but didn't get the opportunity. Missed another chance to laugh together. Rest in Peace Donnie. Many loved you.

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**Debra Lam** - November 03, 2024 at 07:10 PM

JM

“ Donalyn and I are 2nd cousins on the Mowat side and we have been messaging each other on FB since 2016. I had been looking forward to sharing our interest in genealogy and travel more after I retired (and to finally meet her, too!!), so I am extra sad to hear of her passing. I really enjoyed hearing about what she was up to and receiving the occasional family picture. She saw a distinct family resemblance, so that was fun. I have been thinking about her a lot and with that I could make it to the memorial. Please cherish the memories of a wonderful woman!

*Jim Mowat  
Estes Park, Colorado*

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**Jim Mowat** - November 03, 2024 at 05:25 PM

DW

“ Donalyn M. Lemone , Donnie was a beautiful, kind, generous and talented Christian lady that was loved by everyone that was fortunate enough to know her. 2 of my 3 girls participated in her mom & me art classes and a preschool class. Donnie was a very beloved gentle and kind teacher, and the kids loved her💜  
Our hearts and prayers go out to Alan , Scott, Pete and all of Donnie’s family members as she will be deeply missed by all who knew her. We are donating \$50 in Donnie’s name to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church community meal program Benicia in her loving memory💜🙏✝️  
Blessings, Debbie & Dave Weirich

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**Debbie & David Weirich** - November 01, 2024 at 05:14 PM

MH

“ Michael H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donalyn M. “Donnie” Lemone.

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**Michael H.** - October 30, 2024 at 11:40 AM

CD

“ Wishing her family my condolences. I knew “Donni” at ECHS. she was always so kind. Glad to say I got to know her then.

Candace Mitchell (Candie Dorn) - October 29, 2024 at 09:12 PM

TF

“ The Ehlen family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donalyn M. “Donnie” Lemone.

The Ehlen family - October 29, 2024 at 06:32 PM

TF

“ The Ehlen family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Donalyn M. “Donnie” Lemone.



The Ehlen family - October 29, 2024 at 06:32 PM

RH

“ We are so saddened to hear the news of Donnie's passing. We'll always remember the baseball days in the stands cheering our boys on! She was so loving, sweet and her boys' biggest fan. Rest in peace dear friend 🙏💕 and love and prayers to Allen, Scott & Pete and their families)

Rose Hadaway - October 27, 2024 at 07:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donalyn M. “Donnie” Lemone.

October 27, 2024 at 03:34 PM

PS

“ My dearest cousin Donnie was like moonlight over a lake and the scent of your grand baby’s hair after their bath. Sometimes filled with laughter over a secret memory of our childhood. She was more my little sister. Her laughter tickled you for hours after a conversation that lasted for hours. The evidence of her passionate artists soul colored her home for Alan and the boys. There was the smell of wonderful meals for her family. A pillow for my neck made by her for me indicative of her love and caring soul. She was an original cut that will always touch those of us lucky enough to have shared our lives with her, There will never be another Donalyn Marie Lemone in our lives and we all share our memories of you as a cherished bright star. You are loved dearest Donnie you left behind your love for all of us and we want for you to RIP with our blessings. Gods peace and love Donnie

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**Penny Strong** - October 26, 2024 at 05:53 PM

AL

“ Anne L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donalyn M. “Donnie” Lemone.

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**Anne L.** - October 26, 2024 at 09:47 AM

PG

“ I am so saddened to learn of your dear Donnie passing. She was one of the softest and sweetest persons I’ve known. Last time I saw her was outside of Palermo’s with her companion Angel, Miss Lily. I’m so glad I gave her a hug! Hugs to Allan, Scotty, and Pete... patty galvan

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**patty galvan** - October 25, 2024 at 06:45 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Donalyn M. "Donnie" Lemone.*



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October 24, 2024 at 07:38 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donalyn M. "Donnie" Lemone.

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October 24, 2024 at 07:38 PM