

Agnes (Aggie) Maude Polak's Life Story

December 23, 1935 – June 19, 2023

Aggie (Potter) Polak was born in Sarnia, Ontario Canada on December 23, 1935, to William Potter and Georgina Potter. At the age of 10, Aggie's father died and she moved with her mother and 7 siblings to Mooseheart Home for Children, administered by the Loyal Order of Moose, in Batavia IL. Her father, William, always referred to the Moose Club as "the poor man's life insurance".

The family (elder brother David, Aggie, Genevieve, Bob, George, Tom and John) arrived to Mooseheart and grew up in same-sex and same-age dorms with other children who had moved there. Georgina tucked in a different child each night and had Sunday outings with the family. Mooseheart assured Aggie top-notch musical mentorship, and she took her love of music into a College Degree in Music at Augustana College.

After college, Aggie became a schoolteacher and traveled to Colorado to teach 6th grade. There she met Paul Polak, who was completing a residency in Psychiatry. They fell in love and were happily married three months later.

Aggie and Paul made their home in Colorado where they raised three daughters, Amy, Kathryn and Laura. She has two grandchildren, Lazer 19 and Ethan 18. They are very deeply loved.

Aggie taught school until the birth of her first child, and re-entered the education world as a mother of three when all of her daughters were enrolled at Open Living School, an innovative public school in Jefferson County that Aggie helped found, and that is still going strong today. She wrote a book about the school as part of her Master of Education (M.Ed) from Antioch College. Several other books have been published about this innovative school.

Aggie became a Mennonite in 1975 after meeting the Ediger family, whose children were enrolled at Open Living School. Her increasing involvement in the church led to her leadership in forming the Hillak Farms Community (right up the street from Arvada Mennonite), and later to a Master in Divinity (M.Div) at Iliff. Aggie served as a Pastoral Counselor for many years, until retiring.

Her life is defined not only by her work history, but the grace, dignity and strength she provided in her daily interactions, as was her living practice.

Agnes (Aggie) Maude Polak

December 23, 1935 – June 19, 2023



Memorial Service

June 24, 2023

2PM

First Mennonite Church

Denver, Colorado

Agnes (Aggie) Maude Polak Memorial Celebration of Life

*Love doesn't die, people do
So when all that's left of me is love
Give me away*

—author unknown

Prelude Music (Instrumental) Romaine Anderson

Welcome & Invocation Pastor Darren Knowles

Patrick Overton Poem- Amy Schefer

*When you have come to the edge of all of the light you have
And must take a step into the darkness of the unknown
Believe that one of two things will happen:
Either there will be something solid for you to stand on
Or you will be taught to fly*

Hymn (VT 617) *When Peace Like a River (It is Well with My Soul)*

Slide Show Family

Hymn (VT 103) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Memories and Reflection (Open time of sharing) Family

Reflection Pastor Darren

Hymn (VT 480) *I Am the Bread of Life*

Benediction Pastor Darren

"May the blessing of light be with you . . ."

Postlude (Instrumental) Romaine Anderson

Native American Poem

Don't stand by my grave and weep for I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow. I'm the diamond's glint on snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the gentle autumn's rain. Don't stand by my grave and cry. I am not there. I did not die.

Everyone is invited to the Community Center across the foyer for refreshments following the service and to visit with the family.

The family sincerely thanks you for your presence and your many expressions of encouragement, support, and sympathy. We offer deep appreciation to those who helped make this celebration possible.

Darren Knowles, Pastor, First Mennonite Church

Romaine Anderson, Musician

Charlie Ferguson, Song Leader

Xiomara Cordova Potter, Photo collection and presentation

Paul Johnson, Carlene Hill, Reception Coordinators

Nikki KandeLind, Sound and Streaming

Isaac Olson, Head Usher