



Kathleen Donnelly- Cohen

Mar. 08, 1949 ~ Feb. 04, 2025

Kathleen “Kathi” M. Donnelly-Cohen of St. Paul passed away on February 4, 2025, at the age of 75. Kathi was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, whose boundless generosity and kindness touched countless lives. In 1985, Kathi married the love of her life, Larry Cohen, and together they blended their families into one.

Early in her career, Kathi was a trailblazer with the St. Paul Jaycees, advocating for women to have full membership rights in an organization that initially only allowed men. Kathi dedicated over 25 years to a successful career in telecommunications. After retiring in 2012, she embraced her creative passions, immersing herself in woodworking, ceramics, felting, glasswork, and quilting, and becoming an exceptional baker. Kathi's personal and thoughtful cakes, crafted for charitable organizations like Catholic Charities, For Goodness Cakes, and Icing Smiles, brought joy and comfort to individuals experiencing homelessness, trafficked and foster kids, as well as children undergoing cancer treatment.

Kathi's dedication to the St. Paul community was unwavering. Following Larry's passing in 2016, Kathi trained as a Circle Keeper and became actively involved with the City Attorney's office, continuing Larry's work with Restorative Justice Circles in the Hmong community. She graduated from the FBI Citizens Academy and served on its alumni board for several years. Kathi's commitment to civic service was evident through her 11 years on the St. Paul Planning Committee and her membership on the St. Paul Charter Commission until July 2024. One of her proudest achievements was leading the planning and implementation of the Larry Cohen Memorial Plaza at the Ramsey County Courthouse.

Kathi was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Larry Cohen, and her parents, James and Eleanor Donnelly. She is survived by her brother, James Donnelly; her children, Janel Golden (Randy Feldman) and Ryan Hawn (Lisa); her stepchildren, Sam Cohen (Kim Carpenter), Amy Cohen (Ming Tai), Charles Cohen, Scott Cohen, and David Cohen; and her grandchildren, Crystal Cohen, Samantha Cohen, Eli Golden, Jillian Cole, Jameson Hawn, and Caleb Hawn.

Kathi's legacy of love, creativity, and community service will continue to inspire all who knew her. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered.

A celebration of Kathi's life was held on February 7, 2025. The family invites you to leave a donation in Kathi's name to a charitable organization that holds special significance to you.