

Memorial Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/mviUUQYIwAI?si=7eYtEqy0IzFC2hkQ>

Obituary:

Donna Marion Titus December 23, 1935 – April 24, 2024

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, May 18, at 11:00 am at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry, 110 Malphrus Road, Bluffton, South Carolina. A small exhibit of her artwork will be displayed. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to UUCL in memory of Donna Titus.

Donna Marise Marion was born in Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1935 to Frieda (Castelhun) and Donald J. Marion. She died on Hilton Head Island in South Carolina on April 24, 2024, at the age of 88. Donna was an accomplished artist, a writer, and the matriarch of a large, loving family. She was predeceased by her husband, Ronald Titus, in 2018, the day after their 63rd anniversary. She was a lifelong Unitarian Universalist.

Donna graduated from Newburyport High School in 1954 and attended Vesper George School of Art in Boston. In 1955, she married Ron Titus. They spent the first year of married life in Germany, as Ron was in the Army, stationed there. They had four children.

Donna graduated in 1991 from the Portland School of Art (now Maine College of Art) in Portland with a Bachelors' of Fine Arts in painting. Oil was her medium. Her paintings are clear and simple, with a strong use of color. Many are filled with light and air and with the slightly wild and lonely look of the rocky New England coast.

A writer as well as an artist, Donna wrote a weekly newspaper

column called The Yankee Housewife. She wrote poems as well as prose. Combining painting with a love of place, the focus of her work was on nine small islands off the Portsmouth, NH coast called the Isles of Shoals. Donna attended many conferences on Star Island (a Unitarian Universalist retreat center) and worked there for six summers as the Island Historian, giving tours of the Vaughn Museum. She also gave tours on Appledore, was a Ranger on Smuttynose, and in 1994, spent a month alone on White Island, where the lighthouse stands, as the selected NH Artist in Residence.

For nearly twenty years, she presented a dramatic impersonation of Celia Loughton Thaxter – (Isles of Shoals poet and artist; 1835-1894) to over 200 schools, libraries, churches, historical associations, and organizations throughout New England. She also edited a collection of letters by Celia Thaxter titled "By This Wing", published in 1999.

Donna was one of the founding members of the Isles of Shoals Historical & Research Association (ISHRA) and served on its board from its beginning in 1991 as secretary, vice president, and president. In the 1990's she taught art in the Currier Museum children's art school and in the Manchester public school system while giving private painting lessons to children and adults. Throughout the years she also served as Director of Religious Education in the following Unitarian churches: Newburyport, MA, New Bedford, MA, and Manchester, NH. She was a member of the Newburyport Art Association, exhibiting in many shows in their gallery and, in July 2000, held a "featured artist" one-person show.

Despite having a lifelong love of New England, she and Ron moved to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in 2009 to be near their oldest daughter. Donna became an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry (UUCL), where she helped form an art group and also worked on social justice issues such as women's reproductive rights, LGBTQ equality, and efforts to preserve our democracy. She had hoped to see the passing of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Donna leaves behind her four adult children: Ann Harrison, Ellen

Titus (David Inserra), Kate Titus (Judith Armatta), John Titus (Adrie Titus). Six grandchildren: Sarah Milonas, Emily Harrison (Ryan Cornell), Steven Milonas, Joanna Harrison (Zach Bjur), Ja'Lynn & Jaxton Titus. One great-grandchild: Kailah Robinson. Her brother, Donald T. Marion (Nancy Marion), and seven nieces and nephews. She will be dearly missed by her family and a large circle of friends.

DONNA'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE WILL BE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE.

David Inserra, *Congregational Administrator*
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry
110 Malphrus Road
Bluffton, SC 29910
Phone: (843) 837-3330
Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m