



# Peter R. Donahue

AUG 30, 1952 - JAN 14, 2015



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CHAPEL  
OF THE  
CHIMES  
OAKLAND

Funeral, Cemetery  
& Cremation Services

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## **Peter R. Donahue**

AUG 30, 1952 - JAN 14, 2015

**T**he family has requested, in lieu of flowers please donate to the Cancer Society.



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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HF

**Heather Ferguson** posted:

There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of you, Peter. I miss you.

November 23 at 9:22 AM

GR

**Geri Ritchie** posted:

Dear Kathy, Barbara and family,I am so sorry to hear the news of your beloved Peter. I send my thoughts and prayers your way.Sincerely,Geri Ritchie

February 6 at 5:50 AM

MR

**Molly Reid** posted:

Peter was my cousin. His mother Barbara and my dad were siblings. My dad and Frank started out in business together and our lives in New Paltz were close. Kathie came along in Dec, followed by me in Feb. and then Peter just 18 months later. Karen was a bit further behind. As all the tributes say, he was the warmest, funniest and most lovable of guys, not to mention handsome! I was lucky to have visited him in Calif in the 1970's and he hosted two friends of mine also. Driving from Oregon I had told my friends we were staying with my cousin, meanwhile I had told Peter I was bringing two friends. When Peter opened the door he cried "Joan-ie!" and she cried "Peter!" and they fell into each others arms....old friends from New Paltz. Isn't that just like him? He, of course, was a great host.His joyful life filled so many of us with laughter and fun. He is deeply missed.Love, Molly Reid

January 26 at 6:34 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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TD

**Thmas P Donahue** posted:

Peter Donahue was one of the most Sincere and genuine persons i ever met, I always was proud that i was related to him. I like to tell people when i took my confirmation name (Peter) it had nothing to do with the guy in the bible, but it was because of Peter my favorite cousin. I was so glad I got to take My Daughter Shannon out to California for her 16th birthday a few years ago. We went to visit My brother Paul, but we stayed at Peter's House. In that time she got to experience all the stuff that I knew first hand. Kindness, Generosity that came natural to him. He would sometimes call her by the wrong name. (call her Megan my wife's name) typical Peter. He Gave her a nick Name "Sushi Queen" Shannon loved the Sushi restaurants that we would walk to by Pete's house. Pete made her feel special. For me, every morning we walk for coffee. He seemed to know everyone and you could tell people had genuine affection for him. We sit around coffee shops and talk about life. Pete allowed you to be yourself and that's all you can ask for. My son was also able to get a Nick Name from Pete. "Darts" a Few summers back we went to Loon lake and Brian was up early throwing Darts at the dart Board. Of coarse he kept hitting the wall that Peter was sleeping Behind. Once again Pete being Pete found a way to get humor about something that may have annoyed the average person. Loon Lake won't be the same without Peter. Barbra, Kathy ,and Karen you were lucky to have him as a Son, a Brother. sorry for your lost.I will miss him very much. love ya Pete.Thomas Peter Donahue

January 26 at 3:40 AM

SR

**Sandra Rhodes** posted:

To Family and Friends, so sorry for your loss. the Bible offers the best comfort at this time at "John 5:28,29 " & " Job 14: 14,15" . If you would like to know more , go to Jw.org

January 23 at 10:21 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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CD

**Christopher P. Donahue** posted:

Peter was more than my cousin or uncle for that matter, he was my second father. While dad raised me to be a man, Pete raised me to be a true human being. The sincerity he had for others was as honest and genuine as his heart. He never once put himself above the friends and family that meant so much to him. This selflessness could be seen through his beaming smile as he waived to you passing by on Piedmont Ave. or heard through his cheerful laugh that warmed those around him. My time with Pete taught me to be a passionate, sensitive, and understanding human being full of that endless curiosity many of us knew him for. And of course, who couldn't forget his humor. The day we became special buddies happened over an Oakland A's game of course. Dad was going to meet us at the stadium so you picked me up for the afternoon. We bought sandwiches from your favorite local, overpriced Piedmont grocery as that and Starbucks double-shots became our game day tradition. Anyways, you bought me a baseball and a pen to hunt down autographs. After returning with a Miguel Tejada autograph you shouted, "I can't believe you got Tejada's autograph! Wow-eee!" It was like you were the kid full of all the excitement. We proceeded to enjoy many more ballgames after that. The other that darts out was the night at the Rivercats game in Hudson Valley. Again, you selflessly bought me a hat and we laughed uproariously at the Raccoon Ladies and their mascots. Too bad we couldn't score those dates. I know I'm also rambling, but I'm grateful for all the memories and it's my duty to treat the next generation of Donahue's the way you treated all of us as kids. Like Dad said, you're probably up there with other Donahues teasing us down here for missing you so damn much. So I'll live the way you wanted me to and when the time comes we'll catch another game together. Til then, thank you Uncle Pete.

January 15 at 12:31 PM

JD

**Julie Donahue** posted:

Paul... that is a lovely tribute to Peter. I am so glad I was able to spend time with Peter a few years ago. Such a kind and thoughtful man. We are lucky he was our cousin. With him in the world what a wonderful world for us indeed. I like to think Uncle Frank, Aunt Betty, your dad and mine were all there to greet him at the pearly gates. Frank humming. And Peter smiling. Take care of yourself and remember all the amazing friendship you had. Julie Donahue

January 20 at 1:42 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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**Kelly Walters** posted:

Peter Donahue was such an amazing person and I am so grateful to have had him in my life. I always felt like we had a special relationship...but I realize that he had a special relationship with everyone he knew. He was just that kind of guy. He was the kindest, friendliest, most genuine, and of course funniest people I have every known. He was a great story teller...I always loved listening to his stories. I remember when I met "Cousin" Peter for the first time. My mom had offered for my sister and I to go with Peter to Loon Lake for the week because she had to work. She would meet us there on the weekend. Although we were a little nervous going with someone we had never met...we were not going to pass up the opportunity to go to Loon Lake. When we got on the Thruway and Peter said..."Ok, we have something very important to discuss" he proceeded to say "who is going to be in charge of the cash and who is going to be in charge of the credit cards". I think from that moment I knew we were in good hands. Thank you Peter for bringing so much joy, love, and laughter into so many peoples lives. You will be missed tremendously. Rest in peace. Love Kelly

January 20 at 12:01 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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PD

**Paul Donahue** posted:

There was just nobody like him in my life and nobody will replace him. I have been in denial and paralysis since the news of his passing came out. I had been dreading the services yesterday. But it was wonderful. Many thanks to his sisters Karen and Kathy and Kathy's husband Jeff (promoted to brother); you carried out his wishes wonderfully. It fit his "way." Thanks to Pastor Lucy for her eloquent and heartfelt service; there is a difference when done for a friend which so came across. Those of you who attended, both the ones I met yesterday and those of you I hadn't seen in years; thank you for coming and sharing. What a cross section of people in his life! Tears, smiles and laughter all abounded. At the same time I learned many things about Pete I never knew before. Kind and thoughtful to and interested in all those he encountered; yes, I knew all that. But not in the abundance I heard about yesterday. I guess I could relate more stories and memories. But only one and the only time I really teared up badly yesterday. Years ago at a Giants game (years ago he was Giants fan and converted me into being one; then he switched to his A's; see, we had our differences). Anyway, "What a wonderful world" played between innings and it was the first time our hearing it together and well, how got to talking how it moved us. And we got to agreeing how this would be a "must play" at our own funerals. I mean 2 guys in their early 30's talking about music for their own funerals (in between our arguing over which Clark was better, Jack (his choice and his leaving led to the A's switch, I think) or Will (mine). And then yesterday "What a Wonderful World" played in that medley during the service; goodbye composure. My deepest sympathy to all his family members and especially Karen, Kathy and Jeff who cared for him those last weeks; I am just one of those family members. Pete meant as much to you all as he did to me. And the same for all his so many friends. We all lost something and we sympathize with each other, but we are just all better off that we had him in our life at all. Aunt Barbara; I know things have been tough for you of late, but I want to sure I express my special condolences to you. You raised a wonderful son; what he meant to all of us came from you and was yours and Frank's gift to us. And it was you, Barbara, who invited me to spend Easter week in New Paltz oh so many years ago when Pete and I really hit it off for the first time. When Dad picked me up, I didn't want to leave and cried on the way back to Newburgh. A year later, we moved to New Paltz and well, the friendship fell into place. But that Easter week... means so much now; thank you Barbara. I'm rambling and saying more than I planned to. Pete's "curiosity" about spirituality was mentioned a few times yesterday. We are all curious, I suppose, but I can attest he truly was. I am hoping he got his answers; nobody is more deserving. I picture his dad Frank and my own sharing a few laughs and stories watching me clumsily type this. Goodbye my friend and cousin. Paul Donahue

January 15 at 12:31 PM

BK

**Bob Krajicek** posted:

Pete is the tall guy in the back row, center. He is not Eddie Yanchitis.

January 19 at 1:39 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Bob Krajicek** posted:

Gracious, I believe it was 1970,,, possibly '71.

January 19 at 1:35 PM



**Lindsay Hulbert** posted:

I don't recall the first time I met Uncle Pete but I know that it always felt magical to be in his presence. Uncle Pete was my mom's younger brother and every time he came home for a visit there was a sense of excitement. Uncle Pete was always happy to see you, he had an engaging energy that would draw a crowd but Uncle Pete seemed most content when he could speak with you individually. He genuinely wanted to know what you thought, what you felt, what you cared about. Many of my childhood memories of Pete were of times spent at Loon Lake playing keeper of the raft and attempting to re-enact the Dirty Dancing lift scene in the lake. In the evenings we would venture down to the harness track in Saratoga and place our \$2 bets in the hopes of having enough winnings to buy pizza in Lake George on the way home. Even on losing nights, there was always pizza. When we went to visit Uncle Pete in Oakland we were always greeted by beautiful fresh flowers from Piedmont Avenue, a bottle of wine and a note, welcoming us to his home. When my friends and I took a trip to wine country he sent us off with a fully stocked cooler of cheeses, meats and fresh bread!.complete with cutting board and cheese knife. That was Pete's way, he thought about what would make your experience extra special and he made sure you had it. As an adult, I was able to live in the Bay Area, and loved receiving the weekend phone calls from Pete asking if we could see him waiving to us in our Treasure Island apartment as he crossed the Bay Bridge on his way to work. My best friends and I would visit him at the House of Prime Rib and were treated like celebrities because, well, we were Pete's nieces. Pete had 3 nieces and nephews, my brother, sister and I, but so many of us were lucky to be loved by Uncle Pete. Whether you were his nieces and nephew's friends, his cousins' children, his friends' children, his neighbors' children; we were all loved by Uncle Pete, and we loved him back. For me, the hardest part about losing Uncle Pete is that my children will never get to know what it's like to be a part of his life. They'll never experience the joy of being a child around him, laughing at his silly jokes and feeling his love for family and friends. They'll never know how he had a way of making you feel like the most important kid in the world. I love you, Uncle Pete, and I'll miss your laugh and how you made us all feel special!..WOW-EEE!

January 15 at 12:31 PM



**Charlie Moynihan** posted:

Pete:Your eternal smile at the HOPR will be an enduring image. You are the kindest and most sincere gentleman I have ever had the honor of calling a good friend. You were the ultimate True Gentleman. I will miss seeing you in person and our chats over the phone. G-d Bless!Charlie Moynihan/ESPN

January 19 at 8:12 AM



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DA

**Danna** posted:

I have only had the privilege to know Peter for the last two years or so. Peter was in a support group that I attended and I can pretty confidently say that he was loved and appreciated by everyone in our group. Peter was a genuinely good person (and I mean that in its most reverential sense) and always spoke truly from his heart. There were many times when he spoke so authentically that he brought us to tears (good tears!) And then he also had that gift to make us all laugh, too, which we all so desperately needed. Peter called me only a few days before he passed away to say that he was having a good day and that he hoped to make it back to group. He wanted to say a "hello and a good bye to all the wonderful people" in group. Now, how many of us have the presence to do that? What a wonderful soul you are Peter. My life is so much richer to have crossed paths with you in this lifetime. Danna

January 19 at 5:18 AM

MA

**Marie Anderson** posted:

All of the east coast family and friends of Peter Donahue will be thinking of him today. He was a special person who touched the hearts of so many. He made the world a better place. Rest in peace, Peter. You will never be forgotten. I love you. Cousin Marie Donahue Anderson

January 19 at 3:02 AM

LH

**Lindsay Hulbert** posted:

Bob.....what year was this?

January 18 at 11:49 AM

ED

**Ellis, D** posted:

Hey Pete, I love ya Brother and I always will. Thanks for all of the laughs we had on Piedmont ave together. I may have been the mayor of Piedmont Ave but you were "Piedmont Pete". Even though we laughed, it was like school. I learned so much from you. I will continue to learn from you and hold on to those beautiful memories.

January 18 at 11:18 AM



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JG

**Jessica Noelle Grzeszak** posted:

He loved Canadians he said to me all the time. haha so one Christmas outta nowhere gave me the funniest, yet sweetest gift ever. A Southpark watch (which I can't even believe he found) and I was laughing so hard. But What Peter did was engrave the back of the watch "To Jessica Love Pete" made me cry! Happy tears..... And when I had not seen him for a year I visited at work. He showed me his wallet with a photo I gave him to always make him smile. And he kept it near. That was the sweetest man and friend I have ever met....

January 18 at 10:17 AM

JG

**Jessica Noelle Grzeszak** posted:

Look at that smile! What a gift that was.....:)

January 18 at 10:08 AM

DA

**David D'alessandro** posted:

I can honestly say Peter was one of the finest human beings I have ever had the privilege to know & I was honored to have him as a friend. I got married about 15 months ago and had just returned to work. It was a busy Saturday night and Peter was not working, but at the end of the shift he arrived dressed in a sport coat, which was unusual. Living in the East Bay, he typically didn't cross the bridge & come into the city on days he was off. And in all the time I had known him, I had never seen him dressed up. Well Pete had picked up a fruit tart as a wedding present for me & my wife and wanted to drop it off to me before my weekend. When I attempted to open it & share it with coworkers, he adamantly told me that it was for the next day, for me & my wife to enjoy together with our morning coffee. And let me tell you, it was the best tart ever. It was about as thoughtful as you can get, but that was Peter Donahue. I cherish this & all the memories I shared with Pete. He made the world a brighter place, and I am sure he took the fasttrak lane right into heaven.

January 18 at 7:22 AM

JE

**Jennifer** posted:

Peter you taught me so much in the last 14 years you helped in more ways than you'll ever know. I pray to be as good a friend to others as you are to me I love you always Jenni

January 17 at 5:40 PM



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JG

**Jessica Noelle Grzeszak** posted:

Sent a gift in memory of Peter R. Donahue

January 17 at 5:00 PM

JG

**Jessica Noelle Grzeszak** posted:

He would laugh at that ??

January 17 at 4:58 PM

JG

**Jessica Noelle Grzeszak** posted:

I shared a long comment and our funny relationship.... not sure why it didn't post. But I should be in his wallet. A picture he always carried..... I miss him sooooo much. he meant a lot to me. And we could always make each other laugh at work when he had a busy stressful day I would joke and always made him laugh. And he made sure to make me laugh.....I will check my email for the memory I shared cause he was a very important person in my life.....

January 17 at 4:55 PM

JG

**Jessica Noelle Grzeszak** posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Peter R. Donahue

January 17 at 4:49 PM

PC

**Patricia Curren** posted:

You will be missed !!!! am so sorry we did not have more time to get to know each other, but you were always a true gentleman.Patricia Curren

January 17 at 11:39 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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EM

**Eileen (Anderson) Moschella** posted:

My first time meeting "cousin" Peter I was about 9 years old. He met my mom, sister (Kelly) and I in the back parking lot of Coleman high school. He was taking Kelly and I up to Loon Lake. My mom had to stay back to work and was coming up that weekend. So up we went, I remember being shy at first but once he made a few jokes and made us laugh we both warmed up. We were just outside of Lake George and he asked if we wanted pizza – "sure" we replied. So we detoured to LG, not only did we have pizza but we, went to the arcade and carnival. We had the best time and we hadn't even made it to the lake yet. Needless to say, he was a wonderful man who has touched my heart and many others. Peter you always made things fun! You will be greatly missed by so many. May you rest in peace. Love, Eileen

January 17 at 7:59 AM

GL

**Gary Lardiere** posted:

When I moved my family to California from New Paltz in 1993, Pete and I made it a point to annually see our favorite teams square off against each other at the Oakland Coliseum (Yanks vs A's). The first time we met for this event was at least 20 years since we last saw each other. We agreed to meet at the Will Call at the Coliseum in the hope we would recognize each other. As I was waiting and scanning the crowd for Pete, I suddenly heard a voice behind me say, " I thought I was meeting Gary, not his father". Pete and I became friends on the west coast as we were several years apart while living in the east and didn't really connect until Oakland was in our lives. Pete was kind and generous to me and my family including when my kids would show for dinner at the House of Prime Rib. At the conclusion of the first baseball game described above, Pete had me follow him to his car after the game. It turned out that he brought a bouquet of flowers for my wife, Chris, as his way to thank her for allowing me to spend some time away with him... I mean... who does that?Pete, thank you. I just wish you had the chance to make try my egg plant parm.....

January 17 at 5:07 AM

DK

**Dennis Klein** posted:

No one was allowed to sing or talk at the bar except for Peter! You are Loved Sir and will be missed!

January 16 at 9:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Peter R. Donahue**

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SJ

**Steve Jubb** posted:

My wife Connie and I have stone bench in our front yard underneath a Pacific Madrone, a slow growing tree notable for its red, ever-peeling bark. One day Peter confessed to me, in his shy way, that he loved to cross the street, sit on the bench, and just enjoy our garden of native plants. He asked if I minded. I told him he was welcome to sit on the bench or enjoy the view of the neighborhood from our front porch any time her wanted. I said that it made me happy to know that he was enjoying that bench. Peter was the neighbor we all hope for when we settle in a neighborhood. He was kind, watchful, caring, and loyal to his friends and neighbors. He was always ready to help and organize our neighbors we it was needed, and he always asked about the latest news of our kids and granddaughters with genuine interest. Our family grew up across the street from his Montgomery St. duplex and, throughout many years, he made many of us friends. I just can't imagine Montgomery St. without Peter and that unique way he said "hullo steve!" whenever we saw each other coming and going. Peter, you will be missed, and thank you for the love and caring you showed us all in a million small ways. Steve and Connie Jubb

January 16 at 8:51 AM

HF

**Heather Ferguson** posted:

You were such a great man, Peter. You will be truly missed everyday!

January 16 at 3:31 AM

GL

**Gary Lardiere** posted:

When I moved my family to California from New Paltz in 1993, Pete and I made it a point to annually see our favorite teams square off against each other at the Oakland Coliseum (Yanks vs A's). The first time we met for this event was at least 20 years since we last saw each other. We agreed to meet at the Will Call at the Coliseum in the hope we would recognize each other. As I was waiting and scanning the crowd for Pete, I suddenly heard a voice behind me say, " I thought I was meeting Gary, not his father". Pete and I became friends on the west coast as we were several years apart while living in the east and didn't really connect until Oakland was in our lives. Pete was kind and generous to me and my family including when my kids would show for dinner at the House of Prime Rib. At the conclusion of the first baseball game described above, Pete had me follow him to his car after the game. It turned out that he brought a bouquet of flowers for my wife, Chris, as his way to thank her for allowing me to spend some time away with him... I mean... who does that?Pete, thank you. I just wish you had the chance to make you my egg plant parmesan.....Gary Lardiere

January 15 at 12:31 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Peter by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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