

Meet Pat Gill



Pat and husband John Fuerst came to Vancouver from Seattle in 1994 for a “two-year change of scene” and haven’t looked back.

Born into an Air Force family in Texas, Pat lived in seven U.S. states, as well as Germany, and frequently changed schools. High school graduation kicked her right into the 60s and the next fifteen years were a blur of anti-war demonstrations, college sit-ins, hippie love-ins, rock concerts, and living on the land.

She learned to make sheepskin coats, elk skin moccasins, and leather bikinis; to put up enough food for a year; to erect a tipi; to tune up a VW; and to deliver babies.

By the time she was 34, she longed for a steady paycheck and headed to university with her two daughters in tow. Five years and two degrees later, she was a certified speech-language pathologist working for the State of Washington.

Life was good and became perfect when John and she crossed paths in Seattle. They married in 1988 and for the first time in her life she lived in the same house for more than two years. Yes, life was perfect!

And then life became more perfect when they came to Canada and discovered Or Shalom, where Pat has served as co-chair and secretary of the Board, chair of the Gemilut Chesed Working Group, chair of the Retreat Committee, and member of the Cemetery and Come On Over committees. She also volunteers as a navigator at Women’s and Children’s Hospital and a field worker for Watershed Watch Society.

In her spare time, Pat knits, quilts, cycles, plays with her grandchildren, and has a lovely life with John. One daughter lives in the area; the other, in New York, but they’re working on changing that!

Ask Pat about the time she hitched a ride in San Francisco with Ken Kesey to a Thanksgiving dinner “that couldn’t be beat” given by The Grateful Dead and the Hell’s Angels.