

# Anne Marie Duboscq (Goyhenetche)

April 19, 1933 – July 7, 2023



Born in Les Aldudes, Pays Basque, France, the 12th of 13 children, in a house without running water, our mother went on to live a life she could not have imagined. Like her father and several brothers and sisters, she came to the US; unlike some of them, she stayed the rest of her life.

Predeceased by her husband, Remi, in 1993 and her son, Jean-Etienne, in 2008, Anne-Marie is survived by sister Thérèse, and brother Emile and his wife, Jeanne; daughters Marie-Christine (“MC”), Yvette, and Geneviève; their spouses Shelby, Larry, and Lynn; granddaughters Elise, Anna, and Sandrine; and loving relatives in the Bilbao, Duboscq, Goyhenetche, Laxague, and Tissier families in the US, Québec, UK, and France.

A dreamer, storyteller, and fun-lover, Anne-Marie grew up in homes filled with unspoken love, hard work on farms, and stolen time for reading. “We didn’t have much, but we had everything we needed,” she would say. Intelligent and curious, she learned quickly and happily. She attended school in Hasparren and Ustaritz, but poor health and homesickness kept her from going past the 6th grade.

She began working at age 18 as housekeeper, cook, nanny, and occasional nursing assistant for the local doctor’s family. She soon got to know a young baker who delivered their bread every morning; she married Remi in 1953. With the help of family in the US, the couple and their four children left France in 1966 and settled in San Francisco. Anne-Marie worked many jobs in her time: first sorting clothes at Loustau Laundry on Sacramento St., learning some English from coworkers; later working as a housekeeper at the Hilton Hotel, commuting downtown by bus most days, and by bicycle during the 1970 Muni strike.

After attending night classes in cashiering at John O’Connell Adult School, she worked at the Livingston’s tea room and gourmet shop on Union Square until the store closed down. She then worked briefly in the gourmet department at Liberty House, which also closed. She charmed the hiring team at Neiman-Marcus by telling them that wherever she went to work, stores closed down. Neiman’s took the chance, placing her behind the candy counter. Anne-Marie retired from Neiman’s in late 2001, and that store survives her.

Kind and generous, she gave the gift of attention to everyone, from maids and housemen at the hotel to the many sweet young people she came to know in retail, mourning the loss of many during the AIDS crisis. She renewed and made new friendships with fellow Basques and French speakers in the Bay Area after Remi’s death from cancer, attended countless meals and events at the Basque Cultural Center in South San Francisco, sang with the Elgarrekin choir at Basque picnics throughout California and Nevada; attended mass at Notre Dame des Victoires and Corpus Christi churches; and joined in activities with friends in her Outer Mission neighborhood, near the house she and Remi had bought in 1978. She tended the sick, particularly her son Jean-Etienne, whose death at age 44 shook her like no other.

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Anne-Marie loved to connect with people and hear their stories. Her own stories slowly wound down as dementia took hold, and she could recall fewer of the memories that had sustained her through hard times over the years. Luckily for her children and visiting relatives and friends, she was able to recognize those who visited her in her care facility until the end—and always smiled at anyone she did not recognize. She died peacefully two weeks after contracting COVID.

We thank the Cayuga Connectors friends who gave focus and shape to her days in her healthier retirement years, and the many people at Alma Via SF, FirstLight Home Care, Suncrest Hospice, and Heirloom Rose Garden who later cared for our mother.

Friends and family are invited to the funeral mass on Tues., Aug. 22, at 10 a.m., at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 1025 Masonic Avenue, near Oak Street, SF, where neighborhood parking is limited. (Please leave plenty of time, carpool, or take a bus or taxi.) A short graveside ceremony will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, where her ashes will be laid alongside the remains of Remi and Jean-Etienne. To help protect medically vulnerable people like our mother, we ask that everyone wear a mask.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to one of her preferred organizations: the Basque Cultural Center Women's Club, City Team SF, or KQED.