

A Celebration of
Dianne Bady



Sunday, October 29
St. Cloud Commons
Huntington, WV



Dianne McFarland Bady: August 8, 1950 – October 23, 2017

Born in Watertown, Wisconsin, Dianne was the oldest of Josephine and John McFarland's eight children. Her siblings are Jerry, Betty, Linda, Hannah, Monica, Dan, and Laura. On the McFarland family farm, Dianne developed a deep respect for the Earth.

Dianne studied at the University of Wisconsin, and pursued a doctorate in psychology at Rutgers University, where she met her husband Richard Bady. After she brought him back to Wisconsin, their son Aaron was born. It was in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, that her life as an environmental activist began: When an enormous open pit copper mine was planned for her county, she sought out like-minded neighbors and together they organized to demand adequate health and safety regulations.

When she moved to West Virginia with her family, Dianne struggled at first to adapt to the mountains that she would spend the rest of her life fighting to protect. She felt smothered by the hills and lost in the hollers and she was homesick for the great flat of Wisconsin. And then, one day, the mountains began to sing to her, as did the birds and the streams; she began to fill her life with flowers, and, since then, in season, she could always see daffodils, hostas, and daylilies from her home.

To counteract the exploits of greedy polluters in her new home, Dianne formed OVEC, a group of volunteers and weekend warriors that, over three decades, has grown to a fully-staffed, internationally recognized force for environmental justice, with Dianne at its center: founder, visionary, and leader.

Dianne McFarland Bady died after a short illness, but a long struggle. Her final days came much too soon, and we are bereft. But she departed with her friends and family at her side, and her soul was at peace. Although it took an incurable cancer to force her to finally retire, OVEC will continue and nothing can kill Dianne's vision.

Her family and community mourn her loss and honor her memory and legacy. Her beloved dog Holly still waits, at home, for her return. (Read full tribute at ohvec.org/dianne-mcfarland-bady-obituary/)

Program

Opening Music

Welcome from Rick Bady

Janet Keating: *Wild Geese*, by Mary Oliver

Rev. Robin Blakeman: Opening Prayer

Natalie Thompson, OVEC Executive Director

Musical Interlude

Aaron Bady and Lili Loofbourow

Dianne's Family Members

Rev. Robin Blakeman: Selected Passages from the Psalms

Musical Interlude

Invitation for Short Reflections from Attendees

Rev. Robin Blakeman: Benediction / Commendation

Sabbath Poem VII by Wendell Berry

The clearing rests in song and shade.

It is a creature made

By old light held in soil and leaf,

By human joy and grief,

By human work,

Fidelity of sight and stroke,

By rain, by water on

The parent stone.

We join our work to Heaven's gift,

Our hope to what is left,

That field and woods at last agree

In an economy

Of widest worth.

High Heaven's Kingdom come on earth.

Imagine Paradise.

O Dust, arise!

Closing Music

*Please stay for a reception after the program, in the same location.
We invite you to view some of the photos and memorabilia of
Dianne's life and continue sharing remembrances of the ways she
touched your life.*

My husband, Rick, and I were new here, and when we started OVEC, we didn't know it was supposed to be impossible.

That's what Dianne told a *Huntington Herald Dispatch* reporter for a November 25, 2012 article about OVEC's 25th anniversary titled "Environmental group enjoying regional success." Dianne founded OVEC, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, in 1987. She also told the reporter:

The only way you can win on environmental issues is if the power of organized people is greater than the power of organized money.

Dianne was a leader in the movement to end mountaintop removal coal mining. She spent the final years of her life learning all she could about renewable energy, fracking, pipelines, the Rogersville Shale (as evidenced in OVEC's publication *Renew West Virginia*), and the industry-touted concept of the Appalachian Storage Hub. Please do read up on all these issues at ohvec.org, or call OVEC at 304-522-0246 to get involved.

We can honor Dianne's legacy by carrying on her work for environmental justice, wherever we live.



Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

Supporting Organized Voices and Empowered Communities Since 1987

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