



Ms. Patricia Sheely

December 16, 1946 - June 18, 2026

Patricia Sheely, 79, of Pittsfield, died peacefully at Berkshire Medical Center on Thursday, June 18, 2026. Born December 16, 1946 in Quincy, IL, she was the daughter of the late Edward and Ruth Odell Sheely. A lifelong scholar, Pat trained to be a history teacher and earned a Master's degree in American history at UMass Amherst.

After Pat contracted osteomyelitis, which ultimately led to the loss of her leg, she committed the rest of her life to being an advocate for Disability Rights. Outspoken and determined, Pat applied herself to making accessibility a reality throughout the Berkshires. She was a member of numerous Boards of Directors, including UCP (40 years), Ad Lib, and BRTA, and a volunteer accessibility consultant at the Clark Museum and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

In addition to her advocacy work, Pat was devoted to her service dogs, who enriched her life for over 20 years. Pat participated in courses at Berkshire Community College and OLLI; enjoyed movies, theater, and Tanglewood concerts; spent as much time as possible outdoors at area parks and the Clark; and enjoyed reading history, following the news, and painting. Pat was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church in Pittsfield.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Michael Sheely.

She will be missed by diverse members of the Berkshire community, especially Pastor Joel Bergeland, Merle Ferber, Rachael McHugh, Christine Singer, and Elizabeth Young.

Funeral Notice:

A funeral for Patricia Sheely will be held at Zion Lutheran Church, 74 First Street, Pittsfield, on Wednesday, July 8 at 10:00am. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory can be made to United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCP) or Zion Lutheran Church in care of the Dwyer-Wellington Funeral Home.

Upcoming Events

Service

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

Zion Lutheran Church
74 First St.
Pittsfield, MA