

Madeline Riedmann Panowicz Family

Madeline Marie Riedmann and Anton Richard Panowicz, Sr.

Madeline "Madge" Riedmann Panowicz was born September 16, 1920 to Alfred and Frances (Vacek) Riedmann in Omaha, Nebraska. She was the oldest of eight brothers and sisters. She grew up in Omaha attending Train School, St. Patrick's Grade School and South High School. She was a talented seamstress and won first place in the Nebraska High School Sewing Contest. She baby-sat in the summers, starting at age 12. She could cook and bake as well as her mom.

Anton "Tony" Panowicz was born on February 7, 1918 to John and Victoria (Pruss) Panowicz in St. Paul, Nebraska. He graduated from St. Paul High School in 1935. Tony joined the Grand Union Tea Company of Omaha, Nebraska acting as sales manager for crews of salesmen covering the states of Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota.

Madge and Tony met at a polka dance held in Sokol Park. His first dance was with her sister, Irene, much to the dismay of Madge who already had her eye on him. Being the older sister, she let Irene know that he was hands off.

Tony was drafted into the service and sent to boot camp in Little Rock, Arkansas. Madge and Tony wanted to get married before he left, but there was not enough time to arrange it. Her mom promised they could get married on his first furlough. The furlough came through at the end of June when he was to be sent to Officers Candidate School in Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He was given a 10 day leave. It took Tony 4 days to hitchhike back to Omaha. He arrived the day before the wedding. Madge had a wedding shower, bought her dress and made arrangements for the wedding in that short time. Madge and Tony were finally married on July 5, 1942 at St. Patrick's Church. The reception and polka dance was held at the American Legion Hall in South Omaha. They both left Omaha by train for Virginia 2 days after the wedding.

Before he went overseas, he was sent to Fort Lewis, Washington where he and his new bride first became acquainted with Olympia. She returned to Omaha to stay with her parents when Tony left for Europe. Their first child, Rick, was born on March 26, 1944 while Tony was overseas. The first time Tony saw his son was in the fall of 1945 after he was discharged from the Army.

Major Panowicz was with the XIX Corps of Engineers that ultimately stormed Omaha Beach in Normandy France. The Corps fought through France, Belgium, into Germany and finally Berlin, participating in the defeat of Nazi Germany. He received many citations for his military career including the Bronze Star.

He and Madge remembered their early 40's stay in Olympia and returned for good in 1946. Madge really wanted to stay in Omaha and be with her family. She cried half the way to Washington. About half-way there she called home. Her mom made it clear in no uncertain terms that Tony was her husband and she belonged with him. That settled the matter.

Together they opened the "Jewel Box" in 1948 and it eventually became Panowicz Jewelers and Gem Shop. They later sold the shop to their son Rob in 1982.

Tony and Madge had three sons and a daughter: Richard, Robert, Russell and Ruthann Goularte. They have four grandchildren.

The community was very important to Madge and Tony. She always believed that "you must give back what you receive." They were members of the St. Michael Parish, Olympia Yacht Club, Olympia Country Club, Olympia Opera Guild where they helped several people with their careers, and the Washington Center for Performing Arts. She also was also active in Saint Agatha Guild, Catholic Youth Organization, Catholic Daughters of America, and Rosarian Guild. Tony was also active in the Fraternal Order of Elks, the American Gem Society, Rotary, and the Knights of Columbus, He was a past president of the Washington State Jewelers Association and was on the boards of Saint Martin's College, the Salvation Army, Heritage Park, Retail Jewelers of America, and the Washington Center for Performing Arts. Tony was honored by the Masterworks Choral Ensemble for outstanding contributions to the Arts and to the community.

Tony and Madge, besides their many friends and family, enjoyed traveling and had done so extensively over the years. She would help out occasionally at her daughter Ruthann's store, Drees. When not helping someone, or traveling, Tony and Madge could be found on their beloved boat, "Mona Lisa",

Madge died of cardiac arrest on July 11, 1994, six days after their 52nd anniversary. She was an optimist and had a strong desire to help young people get ahead. She also remembered how hard it was to be a newcomer in Olympia and liked to help people meet each other.

Tony died of lung cancer on January 5, 1997. Tony will always be remembered as an upbeat person who was a pillar of the Olympia community.

Rick and Pam Panowicz Family

Anton Richard Panowicz Jr. and Pamela Jo Weiks met in 1960 at Olympia High School. We dated during high school and saw each other off and on after Rick went to Seattle to the University of Washington and I went to Oregon State University.

After paying hefty phone bills when I was working in Chicago and Rick was in the military at Fort Sam Houston, we decided to wed. We had a great honeymoon, thanks to my previous employer, United Air Lines, and then settled in Anniston, Alabama. Rick was training in the Army Medical Service Corps. He soon received his deployment to Vietnam in an Army Mash unit

That year was very ugly for me. I received mail from him but the First Air Cavalry Division was always on the front lines and his Mash unit was hit heavily during Tet. I wouldn't know for days if he was injured or missing or worse.

We had two wonderful trips to Hawaii on R and R that year. He did return home with only a minor injury in August 1969.

His Discharge from the Army was processed at Fort Ord, California. The Monterey Peninsula was a magnificent place to live for the last months of military life.

We lived in California until 1978. We enjoyed the time immensely. We bought our first home in Huntington Beach, California. It was a perfect location, 3 blocks from the beach. The weather was spectacular spring, summer and fall.

Rick began employment with Tab Products and I went back to school to finish my Physical Therapy degree. We both completed our goals. Rick had advanced as far as he could at Tab. We were both homesick for family and the Northwest. So, in 1978 we returned to Olympia. I was working 2 jobs and Rick was working 3. As fate would have it, he was able to buy the Tab Products franchise for the state of Washington and Southeast Alaska. On top of all this, we were building a new house and my father was fighting lung cancer. It was a difficult time for us both. My Dad was a workaholic who had just retired. Rick and I had counted on getting to know Dad but the disease won. We were fortunate to have many more years with Anton and Madge, sharing their impromptu parties and boating trips.

Rick sold his business in 1996 to a wonderful, intelligent, young man. Since Rick was having so much fun in retirement, I retired from my Physical Therapy work in late 2000.

We are enjoying independence so much. We have both done a lot of charity work. Rick's passion is boating. We have taken our boat throughout Puget Sound, British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. We both enjoy traveling and have visited Russia, China, Viet Nam, Hong Kong, Singapore, Central America, The Panama Canal, Turkey and Europe. We will throw the dart to see where the next excursion takes us. Certainly, we have to see the USA!!!!

We have been very blessed to have shared a strong marriage, a wonderful family and to this point, good health. The Elders have been great role models for us. We are looking forward to the Omaha reunion and a chance to revisit our roots, Can't wait to see you all.

Love, Pam and Rick Panowicz

Rob and Linda Panowicz

Rob and Linda Panowicz live in Olympia, Washington where we own and operate Panowicz Jewelers and live with our two mischievous Bassett Hounds Ralphie and Speedo.

Rob is the second son of Madeline (Madge) Riedmann and Anton (Tony) Panowicz. I was born and raised in Olympia, Washington. As in many families with businesses all of us were expected to do our part at the store. For me that meant starting in the first grade with cleaning floors, sweeping the side walk and washing the window (at that time our store was so small it only had one window). After high school I followed my brother Rick to the University of Washington, in Seattle, where I was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and on the wrestling team. I graduated in 1970 and was commissioned in the Navy. Two weeks later I married the love of my life, Linda Wilson.

Linda grew up in Portland, Oregon. We met on a blind date at the Oregon State and University of Washington football game in Corvallis, Oregon. Linda graduated from Oregon State in 1969 and was a flight attendant for United.

Airlines until we were married in June 1970.

We spent our first three years as a Navy couple, living in Philadelphia, PA, Long Beach, CA and Norfolk, VA all in three years. We left the Navy in 1973, returning to Olympia to work in the family business. After three years in Olympia we moved to Seattle. After I got my MBA at the University of Washington I went to work for Deloitte Haskins and Sells as a CPA. We stayed in Seattle for six years, returning to Olympia in 1983. In 1988 we became sole owners of Panowicz Jewelers (or it may be that the business owns us).

Throughout this time, I remained active in the Naval Reserve, retiring with the rank of Captain in 1994. The Navy offered me many wonderful opportunities, taking me on projects from Chicago and San Diego to Calcutta, India (where I met Mother Theresa), Sri Lanka, Korea and the Japans.

The last year has been a busy one for us. Our daughter Leslie married Muhamadou (Mo) Ceesay in May 2001 and our son Chip married Kellee Correa in February 2002. In addition, we are in the process of moving our jewelry store to a brand new location in the waterfront area of Olympia, called the Market District of Olympia. It is very special for us to be at this reunion and renew our family ties.

Leslie Panowicz Ceesay

Hi Everyone! My name is Leslie Panowicz Ceesay. I live in Olympia, Washington with my husband, Muhamed and our dog Kenya. I am the elder child of Rob & Linda Panowicz. My brother is Robert Anton "Chip" Panowicz. Madeline & Anton Panowicz, (Mimi & Pa to me) were my grandparents. Rick & Pam, Ruthann & David, and Russ & Anne are my paternal uncles and aunt.

I was born October 18, 1972. We lived, in Olympia, Washington until I was four years old. There my dad worked, with his dad, at Panowicz Jewelers. In 1977, we moved to Seattle, where my dad attended University of Washington and got his MBA. One of my earliest memories is of attending U\W football games with my dad in the fall. This, along with Mimi's encouragement, was the beginning of my Husky Fever. GO DAWGS!

In 1983, we moved back to Olympia where my parents rejoined Mimi and PA in the family business. I spent 6 through 8 grades at St. Michael's school, were my dad and his siblings attended school. When I was in 7 grade, thanks to my mom's support, I had my dreams of owning a horse come true. I also began working a few days a week at the store to help support my habit. I had two horses over the next six years and spent the majority of my free time at the barn preparing for my next big horse show. (Note to parents of young girls - get her a horse - it will keep her out of trouble!)

In 1990 I graduated from Capital High School and went on to college at Western Washington University. I graduated in 1995 with a double major in American Cultural Studies and Political Science and almost a minor in Spanish. I was determined to take my ambitions and degree and move to the East Coast. I was a city girl at heart and was determined not to move back to little old Olympia.... that is until I realized that I had no

money, no experience, and no job... so I moved home... and got a job, in Olympia. I began a career in social work.

My first job was at a home for runaway teens. Within a year I was promoted to the position of Case Manager, working with teens and their families in a therapeutic foster care program. In

1997, I took a second job at our local juvenile detention center. I was also very active in our community, serving on the board of directors for United Communities AIDS

Network and creating Ink Out! a tattoo removal program for teens who have gang related tattoos. I loved the kids, but after five years as a case manager, it was time for a change. Surprising myself, I did the other thing I said I would never do. In 2001, I went to work with my parents at Panowicz Jewelers.

What a delightful surprise! I love it! I get to help our customers celebrate love - weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and just because days. In order to maintain balance, and because I really do love the kids, I still work at juvie once or twice a week (plus, the kids keep me hip and remind me that I can't wear my Nike sweatshirt with my Adidas pants). I am also an active member of the Junior League of Olympia.

Speaking of love, I found it! My best girlfriend's cousin introduced me to a man named Muhamadou Ceesay. He said the he knew by our 2nd date that I was The One. Being Little Miss Independent, it took me a bit longer to commit and get used to the idea of being part of a "we" instead of a "me". Luckily for me, he is a patient man. We were married May 11, 2001 and have just celebrated our first anniversary. I am blessed to have such a wise, gentle partner and I love being married!

Muhamadou (who goes by Muhamed or MO for short) was born May 13, 1968 in Gambia, West Africa. He lived there until he was 18 then, he too, followed in his father's footsteps, importing and exporting rough gemstones, among other things. God does have his plans, doesn't he? Muhamed has lived in Nigeria, Madagascar, Hong Kong, Angola and most recently with his siblings in New York. Ironically, he is not a city boy and hated the East Coast. He moved to Seattle, Washington to meet up with a childhood friend and you know the rest.

Muhamed is going to school at South Puget Sound Community College, working full time as a security officer for a casino, and also helps Aunt Ruthann at Drees. And yes, we even have a day off together. We are hoping to buy a house and begin a family in the next year or two. We also are working on plans to visit his brother in Spain and his parents in Gambia.

We are very excited to attend this reunion and would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to bring us all together. See you soon!

Chip and Kellee Panowicz

Robert Anton (Chip) Panowicz, the son of Rob and Linda Panowicz.

I was born (1972) and raised in Olympia Washington where I spent a good deal of time boating with my grandparents, Tony and Madge Panowicz.

After high school I spent two years at Maine Maritime in Castine, Maine. I have been working for Coastal Transportation for four years. Coastal has eleven ships that carry cargo from Seattle to the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, and carry frozen fish back to Seattle. I am sailing first mate for Coastal and expect to sit for my master's license early in 2003.

I first met my wife Kellee when we were in 4-H together, about 15 years ago. We were not really even friends until last year when my sister Leslie told her best friend Kellee (who has two horses) that I would enjoy going horseback riding with her. Well, we did, and got married this past February.

Kellee grew up in Olympia and graduated from college in Portland, Oregon. She is currently managing Northwind Kennels in Olympia.

Ruthann Panowicz Goularte

Born in Olympia, Washington in 1951, graduated from Olympia High School. Received B.A. in Art History from University of Santa Clara, 1973. Spent junior year in Rome, Italy with Loyola University of Chicago. First job out of school was at the Hirshhorn Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. (The Hirshhorn contains the Joseph Hirshhorn collection of modern art.)

Ruthann has owned and operated Drees (a gift and home accessories store) in downtown Olympia since 1976.

Activities include Treasurer, Northwest Chapter, American Liver Foundation; Sustaining Member Junior League of Olympia; Transplant Recipients International Organization; Olympia Downtown Association; Chef's of Seattle Culinary Gala Committee (ALF).

Although Ruthann admits her major pastime is the creative aspect of Drees, she enjoys antique hunting and travel anywhere.

In 1990 Ruthann married David Goularte, an interior designer who grew up in Modesto, California.

Ruthann received a liver transplant in May of 1994, and just celebrated her 8th year anniversary of her transplant.

"Some of my fondest memories revolve around summers in Omaha, with Denny, Wayne, and Bill Van, Debbie Elsasser, Margie and Jaynie Riedmann and all the aunts and uncles." I was definitely one of the older cousins.

David Bettencourt Goularte

Age 54 (8 Dec '47) Modesto, near San Francisco, California. One sister, Carol, 50, who is one of three managers (Rangers) of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. Lives with husband in Sitka.

Mother was Secretary, Father auto mechanic his life was really "racing"... one of early pioneers of California stock car racing. Built the Indy car that broke the track record with Jim Hurtubise driving '61.

Born deaf, attended public schools, very good speech reader, hearing totally gone 10 years ago that hearing aids no longer helped. Stopped wearing the aids and went deaf for years. Received cochlear implant in '01 very successful, now considered being moderately deaf.

Graduated from San Jose State University 1969. Degree in Interior Design. Worked in San Francisco bay area until 1977. That year moved to Seattle for the wonderful weather (really!!!!).

Married to Madge and Anton's only daughter, Ruthann.

Worked as store merchandise buyer and display designer until 1980. Independent Interior Designer since '80. Moved to Olympia in '89 as that is where Ruthann's store, Drees, is located. Olympia is just an hour south of Seattle, so it's no trouble to get to the design centers.

Just finished working on large retirement communities for the last 3 years near San Diego, California and in Southern Washington state. Now returning to residential design in the Puget Sound region. Work has made the cover of magazines.

Favorite things to do: reading, movies, gardening, and traveling. Major family claim to fame: Known as Madge's favorite son-in-law.

The Russ Panowicz Family

Russ was born on November 6, 1955 and raised in Olympia Washington. He is the youngest son of Anton & Madeline Panowicz. After finishing up the University of Washington, he moved to San Francisco in 1979 and worked as a Sales Rep for Tab Sales of California.

Russ married Anne Gullixzon married on May 16, 1987 at Portola Valley Presbyterian Church and two months later re-married in Olympia Washington at St. Michaels Catholic Church (at Madeline's insistence that in order to be legitimate they had to be married in a Catholic Church... they even have two marriage licenses to prove it) They are currently active members at St. Gregory's Catholic Church in San Mateo.

Russ & Anne found a home on the water in San Mateo, California and still enjoy their home 15 years later. They keep a Ski Boat tied up in the backyard and the Welcome Sign is always out for friends and Nebraska Relatives to come and visit and do a little water skiing at "Club Mateo".

Russ left Tab in 1985 to begin a career for Marcus & Millichap (a real estate investment brokerage firm based out of Palo Alto, California) and Anne left Tab to begin a 14 year career selling computers to Fortune 1000 companies in Silicon Valley. Russ is still with Marcus & Millichap today but Anne retired to be a "Stay-at-Home" Mom about 4 years ago.

Emily Panowicz was born on July 1, 1988 and just graduated from 8 grade, starting high school in the fall. She finished with High Honors and was one of the top ten of her graduating class maintaining a consistent 4.0 grade point average her 3 years of Middle School. She loves Volleyball and plays on a Club Team. She also enjoys music and after years of piano and flute lessons, she's decided that Choir is her new love! She sang with the prestigious Peninsula Girls' Choir for 2 years and 3 years with the Middle School Choir. She will be continuing with Choir in High School next year.

Christina Panowicz was born on October 30, 1990 and just finished her first year of Middle School with High Honors and a 4.0 average. She attends our District Magnet School called the "School of Science, Technology and Performing Arts", She plays the violin and loves dance. She is also very excited that she auditioned for Advanced Drama and made it for next year. Drama will take up two blocks during the school day.

Christina is also active in sports and played on both the school Volleyball and Soccer Teams. She also plays in the fall on our local AYSO soccer team. Russ has spent many years coaching both Emily and Christina's soccer teams and has gone from both extremes of having a Winning Championship Team to coaching a season of no wins at all.

C'est la vie!

The Panowicz family also consists of their beloved German Shepherd "MacKenzie", a cat named "Tyler" and a parakeet who sings beautifully named "Mozart". July 5, 2002