



Ann Senae

(1940 -)

Ann Senae has a history in the Fraser Valley going over 100 years. Her maternal grandparents, Gustav Eric Farman and Anna Cecilia Carlson emigrated from Sweden in the early 1900s. Records show they travelled to Mission via the CPR enroute to their farm in Matsqui. Ann was born July 10, 1940 to John and Lilian Jacobson, the oldest of 4 children. Her family owned a dairy farm, and later, a grocery store in Matsqui. "I feel that it was an easy, very supportive childhood," she says and considers her grandmother particularly influential in her upbringing.

At 16, Ann left school and got married. Her first daughter Debra was born in 1957, followed by Melissa and James in the next few years. While raising her family, Ann completed high school by correspondence and at the age of 30 she enrolled at Simon Fraser University, where she received a BA in psychology. However, it was not long before she decided working in psychology felt too much like being a "paid friend," and changed gears by starting to work towards becoming a Certified General Accountant.

Several years after her divorce in 1973, she married Bill Campbell, who she describes as "a feminist man if there ever was one". She worked towards her CGA for eight years, once again balancing school and motherhood when she and Bill had a daughter, Sarah, in 1980. Shortly after receiving full accreditation as a CGA, she opened her own accounting practice in Mission, which she recently sold.

Now that she is semi-retired, Ann's primary focus will be music – a lifelong passion that she felt unable to fully devote herself to until now. She played bass alongside Bill in the band Blackfox for 15 years and has sung in two a-cappella groups. In 2009, Ann fulfilled one of her life long dreams when she was given the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall. She is currently taking slide guitar lessons, performing with the quartet called Tangerine, and jamming regularly in coffeehouses.

Ann is passionate about helping women become independent and achieve their goals,. She has spent the past 35 years heavily involved in volunteer work with local community and women's organizations. Ann has shown by example that even if circumstances are difficult, they can be overcome and goals achieved.

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