Remembering Patterson Macdonald Benero, A Bridge Between Writers and Community

Patterson Macdonald Benero understood that the strongest communities are built through connection—through introductions made, conversations shared, and friendships nurtured over time. A lifetime member of the English-Speaking Union of Denver and a treasured friend to many, Patterson brought people together wherever she went.

With her background in journalism and public relations, Patterson had a remarkable ability to make everyone feel welcome. At gatherings in her Capitol Hill apartment and around the Denver Press Club bar, she had a gift for transforming a room of strangers into a community of storytellers and friends. She recognized the value of conversation and the importance of creating spaces where people could connect.

Patterson's relationship with the Denver Women's Press Club became a meaningful part of her legacy with the ESU. Through that connection, the ESU continues to celebrate fellowship and the written word by holding its annual holiday gathering at the Press Club—a tradition that reflects Patterson's appreciation for writers, communicators, and the power of shared experiences.

The Denver Women's Press Club also provides the setting for the ESU's annual writing contest celebration, where members honor emerging writers and recognize the importance of encouraging new voices. Each year, as ESU members gather in that historic space, Patterson's influence is still felt in the friendships formed and the traditions continued.

Patterson's greatest gift was bringing people together. Her legacy lives on through the connections she created, the organizations she strengthened, and the welcoming spirit she brought to every room she entered.