



Golden Landmarks Association  
*Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future*

## Living Landmark Award 2012 Judy Denison

Judy Denison was born in New York City, but grew up in the hills of rural western Massachusetts in a 150-year-old farmhouse surrounded by meadows and old maple trees. Her grandparents lived a mile away in a farmhouse built in the mid-1700s, and the farm produced milk, apples, and maple syrup. This instilled in her the love of history and open space.

Judy studied math and physics at Smith College, Massachusetts, moved to Boulder for graduate school. Judy married a fellow student, who became a professor of physics in Laramie, Wyoming, where they raised our four children. After graduation they moved to Heidelberg and Zurich for four years, where their children went to local schools, and Judy learned Swiss Folk Painting, which she later taught. Judy received a degree in psychology.

She moved to the Denver area in 1986, and she has lived near downtown Golden since 1988. She loves the peacefulness, connectedness and nearness to nature of a small town that she experienced growing up in a farming rural area. Judy travels often to Germany, where her son lives, and she has visited many of the countries in Europe, as well as Turkey, Russia, Mexico, Peru, and Belize.

In Golden, Judy was a co-founder of Save the Mesas and an organizer of the Mesa Music Fest. Her involvement with Save the Mesas and CINQ (Citizens Involved in Northwest Quadrant) led to the *Golden Newsletter*, which distributes environmental and cultural news of Golden to 1000 addresses every week. This newsletter keeps households and business informed and updated on CINQ's work against the beltway in an effort to preserve the Golden's clean mountain air, character, and ambiance. After Katrina, Judy formed the Golden Relief Group, which helped seven evacuee families. Judy organized the Golden Community Choirs, now in its twelfth season. This group includes the Golden Concert Choir and the Children's Choir of Golden. After a medical mission to Belize in 2007, Judy and several others, including her daughter Jean Kirshner of Parker and Dr. Rebecca Knight of Golden, set up the Belize Education Project, which sends teams of teachers to Belize and provides books and scholarships. Judy worked with Interlink to find host families for foreign students and has hosted many students in her own home. With other members of the Rotary Club of Golden, Judy meets every week with a small group of young teenage girls to discuss ethics and life at the Connections Learning Center, a wonderful alternative public school in Golden.