

Celebration of Life for Gay Kuchta



2:00 pm Saturday, May 13, 2023

Unitarian Church of Vancouver
949 West 49 Avenue, Vancouver, BC
604-261-7204 | www.vancouverunitarians.ca

Celebration of Life for Gay Kuchta

Prelude	<i>Music by Chopin, Schubert, Shostakovich, Satie</i>	E. Dainow, piano
Welcome	<i>We Meet on Holy Ground</i>	Rev. Wendy McNiven By Zalmon Sherwood
Kindling the Chalice Flame		Gay's Grandchildren
Hymn #188	<i>Come, Come, Whoever You Are</i>	
Reflections	<i>On Grief</i>	Rev. Wendy McNiven
Reading	<i>Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep</i>	By Clare Harner Read by Raelene Shea
Reflections	<i>On Loss</i>	Rev. Wendy McNiven
Reading	Excerpt from "Little Gidding" (Four Quartets)	By T. S. Eliot Read by Stephanie Sellars
Hymn #123	<i>Spirit of Life</i>	
Eulogies		Nicola and Andrew Kuchta Jenny Boswell Sherry King Iris Davidson Dr. Peter Malleson
Hymn #1010	<i>We Give Thanks</i>	
Silence		
Music	<i>Music by Bach</i>	E. Dainow, piano
Closing Words		Rev. Wendy McNiven
Recessional	<i>Je Ne Regrette Rien</i> <i>Music Chopin</i>	Edith Piaf E. Dainow, piano

Gay Kuchta – May 6, 1944 – June 15, 2021, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 77. She is survived by children Nicola and Andrew (Karen); step-daughters Leslie (Jim) and Allison; grandchildren Wells, Raine, Emily (Riley), and Patrick (Ashely); four great-grandchildren; brother Bob (Liz) and family; beloved cousins and their offspring; and countless friends and colleagues.

Gay is keenly missed by all who knew her. The reasons are legion but include her lively mind, generosity of spirit, dry humour, thoughtfulness, and boundless energy.

Gay grew up in post-war Liverpool, UK, to parents who instilled in her a profound commitment to family, curiosity and critical thinking, service, social justice, humanist philosophy, and a passion for the outdoors. She sailed to Canada in 1967, docking in Montreal in time for Expo 67, and within a year of arriving in Vancouver Gay had joined the cutting-edge team at the Canadian Arthritis & Rheumatism Society (now: Mary Pack Arthritis Program).

Gay shone in everything she did. Two of her proudest achievements were being the first OT to receive the American College of Rheumatology Distinguished Clinician Merit Award in 2006 (the second received it in 2013); and co-authoring “Occupational and Physical Therapy for Children with Rheumatic Diseases: A Clinical Handbook” (Routledge 2008) with her longtime physiotherapist colleague and friend, Iris Davidson.

Gay’s curiosity for life and learning led her to the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, where she found a like-minded community and lifelong friendships. It led her to explore ‘her backyard’, as she called it, with friends and family: hiking, cycling, kayaking, and camping throughout BC and Canada (and beyond). Gay was an avid gardener and voracious reader, and might be missed most for her ability to recommend your next great read.

