



## Wendy Elizabeth Tanner

June 2, 2020

It is with great sadness in our hearts, but wonderful memories, we announce the passing of Wendy Elizabeth Vesper Tanner, 67, on June 2, 2020, in hospital in Toronto.

A beloved daughter and sister, she is predeceased by her mother Gladys, and father Kenneth, and is survived by her brothers, Brian, and Andrew, plus numerous other relatives in the UK, Australia, and India.

Wendy was born in India, but moved to England as a child with her family, before emigrating to Canada in the late 1980s. Wendy had a successful career as a trainer and educator, but always had time for family and friends, and established lasting relationships. She was loving, perspicacious, strong, creative, conscientious, compassionate and fun. After moving to Canada, Wendy lived in Montreal and in Toronto, making strong connections wherever she was. Wendy loved dance and music and was involved in both over the years. She will be greatly missed by her friends here.

Wendy was passionate about social justice and advocated for many causes related to it. Donations made in her memory to any charities which support building a better world would warm her heart. Wendy also liked to support local charities, so choosing an organization in your community would be something she would appreciate.

It was Wendy's wish that a celebration of her life be held when we can once again gather together in person. A time for us to share memories, raise a glass, eat some chocolate and lift our voices in song.

Her memory will forever be cherished by all of her relatives and friends.

# Comments

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“ Wendy was at Wall Hall Teacher Training College and was part of a group of 8 friends. She was very creative, great fun and was a Special friend. We will always remember her with great affection.

**Judy Ryan** - November 16, 2020 at 02:49 PM

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“ I just learned of Wendy's passing. I'm so sad to hear this news. We worked together at Labour Education Centre and she was a such a friendly and fun presence during my years there, as well as a strong leader and teacher. Please accept my condolences. I'll always remember her fondly.

**Nicole Osbourne James** - October 28, 2020 at 05:28 PM

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“ Christine Rocheleau lit a candle in memory of Wendy Elizabeth Tanner



**Christine Rocheleau** - September 09, 2020 at 12:41 PM

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“ What sad news to hear about the passing of my lovely friend Wendy.

We met, 40 years ago, at the Laban school of Dance in London. We kept in touch and got together, as often as we could, when Wendy returned to the UK. We shared interests in dance, art and education and spent many happy hours reminiscing on the fun we'd had at Laban.

Wendy was a kind, caring, generous and witty friend. I will miss her terribly and hold her in my heart forever.

**Manda Barnes** - August 26, 2020 at 02:03 PM

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“ I first met Wendy at a DVES partnership meeting. My initial reaction was 'wow what a powerhouse'; Wendy's strength in advocating for community and for those who needing support goes without saying. My sincerest condolences to the Wendy's family and may her memory be eternal.  
Kindly, Paresa Katsios

**Paresa Katsios** - July 06, 2020 at 12:08 AM

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“ I worked with Wendy in different capacities, it is really sad to hear about her passing. I would like to send my condolences to her family.  
  
Keeping Wendy in my thoughts and prayers,  
-Fayzal Samji

**Fayzal Samji** - July 03, 2020 at 12:05 PM

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“ I worked with Wendy for many years when she was doing literacy work. It was always a pleasure to meet her at various meetings, gossip and exchange news. She is missed.

**Karen Lior** - June 26, 2020 at 12:18 PM

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“ Wendy came to work at the Labour Education Centre in June 2001, 10 years before I did. She was Director of our Literacy and Basics Skills program for many years before becoming Director of our Employment Services. She was active with MTML (Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy) a key advocacy group for adult literacy.

Wendy's finest hour at LEC was her leadership role in the labour response to the closure of the Progressive Moulding Products plant in Vaughn, just north of Toronto.

On July 1, 2008, Progressive Moulded Plastics shut its doors without notice to its 2400 workers. and began transporting equipment out of the plants. 97% were immigrants. The workers staged a 16-day picket, night and day, in a fight to secure the \$30 million they were owed in severance and termination pay. Workers did not succeed in obtaining severance pay, and lost their company pensions. The activism of the workers at the picket line, in staging protests, and advocating for changes to EI and bankruptcy legislation contributed to a strong sense of solidarity among PMP workers.

Wendy took the lead with the PMP Workers Action Centre and the Workers Adult Learning Centre to help workers process their sudden job loss, and to find new jobs. A physical space was set up at a nearby union hall (Canadian Auto Workers) even though the workers themselves were not unionized. Need assessments were done with each worker. Seasonal events, picnics and other events were held for workers and their families.

Her colleagues here at LEC and at MTML remember Wendys' huge contribution. One of the first events I attended as Executive Director of LEC was an event to recognize the fabulous work that was done on behalf of the PMP workers two years after the plant closure.

I witnessed first hand over and over again the very strong commitment that Wendy had to the participants of LEC's programs.

Most years Wendy took time off at the end of the year to visit family in the UK. As someone who lived in the UK for a few years we would often chat about British culture and politics and each others' family.

Wendy's friend and colleagues at LEC and the MTML were shocked to hear of her death, and we will always remember her dedication to her work and the people in our programs.





“ Cecilia Austria lit a candle in memory of Wendy Elizabeth Tanner

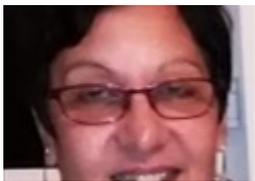


**Cecilia Austria** - June 25, 2020 at 07:41 PM

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“ Our dearest sister had the onerous position of being born between 2 brothers, but managed sibling rivalry with aplomb. Growing up, she stood up for herself with grace, and was sincere, gentle, fair and kind. Our father died when Wendy was ten years old and she was his favourite. Our mother was always grateful to have Wendy’s companionship, love, and laughter, and loved her with all her heart. Wendy had great integrity, and was a loyal, compassionate, loving, kind, generous, reliable and supportive daughter, and sister. She was also intelligent, insightful, and a great confidant to both of us, and we always knew that we could put our faith, and trust in her with absolute confidence. She was always there to comfort and guide us, as only a sister can. Wendy will always be greatly loved, and missed by us, but kept deep within both of our hearts and minds. Brian is also particularly grateful for the time, love, kindness and special care, and consideration she gave to him. Wendy’s free spirit will be somewhere wondrous up there in the universe, in blissful consciousness, helping to make it an even better place. It is truly a testament to Wendy that she loved, and was loved by so many. Brian and Robin Tanner (Wendy's brothers)



**Brian and Robin Tanner** - June 23, 2020 at 11:13 AM

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“ I shared time with Wendy at a film group we both belonged to and several out-of-town visits to a cottage that we and other film sisters made in recent years. I didn't know her really well (we never worked or sang or demonstrated (at social justice events) together , but I wanted - and hoped - to come to know her better in the next few years - now, not to be. Why? She was very intelligent, thoughtful, respectful and attentive; a great thinker and very caring about her fellow man. Whenever she spoke, I found her words interesting, meaningful, usually thought-provoking. She was generous of spirit and passionate about learning and making the world a better place. She has left a large hole, tho' special memories as well. I am lucky to have known her and I will miss her. She was a very special and lovely human being.



**Marion Voysey** - June 20, 2020 at 05:45 PM