



## Barbara Grace Caplan

November 13, 2023

On November 13, 2023, Barbara passed away of natural causes in her home, at the age of 78. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Michael, her caring parents, Jack and Grace Henry, and her very loved niece, Brittany Henry. She will be sadly missed by her sister, Laura (Greg) Care, brother, David (Mary) Henry, niece Lisa (Mike) Parish, nephew Daniel (Jocelyn) Care, her great nieces and nephews, Grace Parish, Wesley Care and Taylor Care as well as her stepchildren, Maria-Elena Sparks and Ashley Thompson.

As a dear friend and mentor to many, Barbara was loved and respected by many people socially, as well as by her peers throughout her career. As former Toronto's first female City Clerk, Barbara served a number of Mayors - from David Crombie to Barbara Hall. Throughout her career, Barbara was committed to openness and transparency, and the modernization of her department and its central role in managing City Council and official records. After retirement from City Hall in 1997, Barbara remained committed to many passions including the Yonge Dundas Square, PAL Toronto, Homes First Society, and her condo board. She was an extremely strong, intelligent woman who always focused on making a progressive difference.

Arrangements will be sent out for a Celebration of Life at a later date.

In memory of Barbara, donations can be made to Homes First Society of

Toronto at [homesfirst.on.ca](https://www.homesfirst.on.ca)

# Tribute Wall

LD

“ Barbara was a gem, a treasure, a woman who cared deeply for others and contributed greatly to society. She was a dear friend and I will miss her. My sincere condolences to her family and many friends on this significant loss.

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**Linda Silver Dranoff** - December 04, 2023 at 12:52 PM

RS

“ I have just found out this sad news. I was a member of The Wednesday Women, a group of highly-accomplished women (I provided comic relief) with Barbara and always enjoyed my times in her company. She gave me valuable advice when I was having work challenges. I was lucky to have been in her orbit. Rest in Peace dear Barbara.

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**Risa Shuman** - December 03, 2023 at 10:32 PM

JV

“ This is such sad news. Barb was such a lovely lady. A true supporter of her community and our restaurant. We're going to miss you.

*The Blake House Family*

*Jim Vasilakakos*

*November 19, 2023*

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**Jim Vasilakakos** - November 19, 2023 at 09:35 PM

MI

“ *Laura and family. I am so sad to hear of Barb’s loss. I had the great fortune of working with Barb at City Hall where she was a path breaker as the first female City Clerk. in addition to doing a great job, Barb was so modest, approachable and kind.*

*To my great delight, fifteen years after I moved into 130 Carlton, Barb also moved in (I like to think my praise of the building had some influence) actually to the Unit below me (We had interesting discussions about pigeons and bathroom leaks)*

*True to form, within a year, Barb knew more people in the building than did I, quickly became a core part of the social fabric, and eventually (of course) served in a leadership position on the Board. Very often Barb circulated hilarious and interesting items from the Internet that always brought a smile, many of which I recirculated. It was wonderful catching up in the lobby.*

*And Barb was the social glue behind the organization of regular meetings of ex City of Toronto staff.*

*It is hard to believe you are now longer here with us in body, but your spirit, warm and engaging presence will live on forever*

*Michael*

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**Michael** - November 17, 2023 at 10:56 PM

CR

“ *Barbara Caplan ...she was a force, a pioneer, a mentor and an incredible role model. Smart, kind, generous and beautiful too. She was almost always the smartest person in the room and expected the highest standards from those around her.*

*I learnt so much from her.*

*In recent years she convened monthly lunches of former city hall staffers, one of the many networks that she helped to convene. She will be missed. Her passing makes us so very sad.*

*My condolences.*

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**Ceta Ramkhalawansingh** - November 17, 2023 at 06:34 PM

 Tibi  
Balanescu

“ *It is with deep sadness we learned that Barbara, our neighbour, is no longer with us. Our sincere condolences to her family!*  
*Tibi & Rodica*  
*suite 703*

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**Tibi Balanescu** - November 17, 2023 at 01:02 PM



“ *So outgoing, caring, and an immediate friend, so valued by those of us who shared our residence with her. Living alone, I always felt so happy when I would run into Barb in the lobby. Good-by, dear lady!*

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**Tim Devlin** - November 17, 2023 at 09:21 AM

PK

“ *I remember Barbara with affection and respect. My condolences to all who knew and loved her.*  
*Perry Kendall*

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**perry Kendall** - November 17, 2023 at 08:27 AM

JS

“ *Barbara was the beautiful and smart big sister of my best friend. We were pretty impressed by her and as we got older that never changed. She will be so missed by everyone she touched.*

*Joan Swinburne*

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**joan swinburne** - November 17, 2023 at 06:32 AM



*We are both so sorry to hear of Barbara's passing. Her contributions to the Board, the Social Committee and the community in general at 130 Carlton were beyond words. She will be sadly missed. Our deepest sympathy to all her family and numerous friends. Clair and David Ewens.*

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**Clair Ewens** - November 17, 2023 at 12:44 PM

DS

“ *My deepest condolences. Barbara was an inspiring female leader that set the stage for many others to follow.*

*Dilki de Silva*

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**Dilki de Silva** - November 16, 2023 at 10:24 PM

CB

“ *So sorry to hear of Barbara's death. I knew her for many years from 130 Carlton. She gave selflessly to the board and the social committee. My sincere condolences to her family and many friends.*  
*- Chip Barkel*

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**Chip Barkel** - November 16, 2023 at 07:19 PM

JE

“ Barbara was a cherished neighbour and friend. She will be missed.  
-Jeffrey @ Carlton on the Park



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**Jeffrey** - November 16, 2023 at 01:48 PM

JL

“ What a loss! I just loved my time working on the executive committee with you Barb, and the many years our friendship continued. You were an amazing mentor, friend, hostess, and so very accomplished.  
Jane Lockwood

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**jane lockwood** - November 16, 2023 at 12:46 PM

TG

“ My deepest condolences for your loss. Barbara was a dear colleague. Her time with us was too short but the impact of her leadership at the City of Toronto was immeasurable. Her spirit will live on in all the lives she touched.

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**Tom Greer** - November 16, 2023 at 12:43 PM

AS

“ Daniel and I are so very sorry to hear of Barbara's death. When we moved into Carlton by the Park, she welcomed us with open arms, and her friendship has meant a lot over the past decade.

- Allan Stratton and Daniel Legault

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**Allan Stratton** - November 16, 2023 at 12:38 PM

BM

*After becoming friends with Barb while working for the city I introduced her to Michael who became her life mate. My whole family loved Barb and would love to be advised of any future celebrations of her amazing life*

**Beverley Marshall** - November 16, 2023 at 07:59 PM

JW

*“ Darling Barbara, my oh my but we had a lot of fun and laughs along the way including happy times in the Courtyard Cafe and Fenton's. And I will always treasure being included in your family gatherings. Over 30 years ago you drove me to the airport for my move to London. Our friendship endured and i am so glad that we got together when I visited Toronto in June. I lit a candle for you yesterday in St. Luke's Church in Chelsea. This is the church where Charles Dickens was married by the way. You will be a great loss to me, your family and many friends and really...anyone who has met you. With love from your friend, Janet in Chelsea in London*

**Janet Walsh** - November 16, 2023 at 12:27 PM

SS

*“ Barbara was one of the kindest, most caring and generous people I have ever known. She opened her arms and her heart to all and will be missed terribly. May our memories of this wonderful woman sustain us all.  
Susan (Fish) Schiller*

**susan schiller** - November 16, 2023 at 10:30 AM

LC

*“ We were sisters that so loyal and helpful to each other There is going to be a hugh hole in my life and my children's. You will never be forgotten.  
Love, Laura*



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**Laura Care** - November 16, 2023 at 09:47 AM



*“ I am so grateful for Barb's mentorship and friendship these last 30 years. I shall miss her.*



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**Celia J Chandler** - November 15, 2023 at 10:06 PM

PT

*“ Dearest Barbara, I shall miss you terribly. Thank you for being such a dear, wise and generous friend for life. With all my love, Peter.*



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**Peter T.** - November 15, 2023 at 08:54 PM