



## Brigitte Maria Chan, née Naumann

December 16, 2021

Brigitte Maria Chan, née Naumann, daughter of Walter and Maria Naumann

August 4, 1944 - December 16, 2021

Brigitte said she lived a happy life. She did what she loved best for most of it, which was help children. In retirement, she trotted the globe as an opera aficionado. Brigitte would start a genuine conversation with every one she met and always practised kindness with her words, actions and little gifts.

Brigitte was educated at La Sorbonne in France, Aachen Universitat in Germany, Cambridge University and the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in England, UCLA and The Institutes for the Achievement of Human Potential in the United States, and York University in Canada.

Brigitte spent her working life in Toronto at Bayview Glen School as a French teacher. In speaking with her friends and colleagues, the word 'kids' often came up. She would work as much as needed and meet any challenge if it benefitted the 'kids'. For a person who, some would say, had very high standards, Brigitte was ultimately very down to earth with simple needs. She could enjoy the most expensive food and then devour a jelly donut.

Brigitte was dearly loved and will be missed by her sister, Christa, her son,

Daniel Jr, his wife, Ami, their children, Arissa and Sean, his father, Daniel Sr, and by her step-family, Christine, Christian, Stephanie, her husband Rory, and their son Leo.

Mom and I never said goodbye before she passed away. Instead we always said, 'See ya'. So Mom, as always, 'See ya.'

We hope to scatter Brigitte's ashes later this year.

# Tribute Wall

JG

“*Brigitte was my dear friend and fascinating colleague. We met in 1991 when I joined the staff at Bayview Glen School in Toronto, Ontario. She taught French to the youngest students known as BG2's and BG3's. She managed her playful students with puppets, costumes, and trinkets as well as undying devotion to them. They in return adored her. To her colleagues she was known as “Brigitte,” to her students’ parents she was “Madame Chan,” and to her wee students she was “Dam Chan!”* [L T L] [S E P I S E P]

*Brigitte was also a passionate fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. So much so that when the Blue Jays won the World Series in 1992 and 1993, she worked as a volunteer escorting dignitaries to their private boxes. How proud she was of all the memorabilia of these fabulous seasons that the Jays gave her.* [L T L] [S E P I S E P]

*For more than 25 years you could find the two of us on a Friday evening at the Canadian Opera Company. She was an opera devotee as well as my mentor. In fact, she was known as “Birdie” to the soloists and dignitaries both here in Toronto and in Salzburg where she spent much of her summers.*

*I am deeply missing my friend’s joyful, magnanimous, free spirit. Brigitte truly was one of a kind.*

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**Jennifer Gilfillan** - April 18, 2022 at 05:20 PM

DI

*Too bad we can say the same for you Jennifer!*

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**Dina** - May 09, 2022 at 02:22 PM

CH

“ My sister Brigitte and I moved to London in 1963. It was a dream come true for two girls who grew up in Geneva and in France. The 60s in England was an eye opener for us and we just had little silly jobs after we got our certificate for our English studies, our new language. We had a lot of fun just working and visiting the theatre almost every evening.

Afterwards, Brigitte left for Boston and finally to Toronto where she continued to experience a new wonderful and rewarding life. At Bayview Glen Junior School, Mrs. Hopkins, who I did get to know, was very impressed with Brigitte and so was I and so were we all and still are. Well done sis, you did very well and deserved every minute of it. Cheers, Christa

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**Christa** - March 07, 2022 at 04:50 PM