



## Carol Louise Musselman

September 27, 2023

Carol Louise Musselman, 80, of Toronto, Ontario, passed away peacefully on September 27, 2023. Born on June 9, 1943, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, to Henry and Grace Musselman, Carol was a beacon of compassion, intellectual curiosity, and strength.

Carol was Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto, where she was a formidable researcher and teacher in deaf education at OISE. Carol attended Wheaton College as an undergraduate and was awarded a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Michigan. After retiring, Carol became a registered psychologist and practiced psychodynamic psychotherapy.

Carol's life is a testament to resilience, having faced cancer three times. A dedicated matriarch and mentor, she served as both a psychological and spiritual guide to many, most intimately to her friends and family, who knew her to be a thoughtful, attentive listener. She married Peter Reich in 1967 and had two children, Adam and Athena Reich. In 1999, she married Donald Alexander Robertson, and his adult children, Jim and David Robertson and Kathy McIntyre, joined her family.

Carol was an avid lover of the arts, having played piano, sung with numerous choirs, donated to the arts, and adored her children's and grandchildren's artistic accomplishments. She was a meditator and mystic, having enjoyed

many retreats with the World Community of Christian Meditators. She was an enthusiastic world traveler and was always planning her next adventure with family and friends. Carol is survived by her children Adam and Athena Reich, her stepchildren Jim and David Robertson and Kathy McIntyre, her grandchildren Phoenix and Raven Reich, Victoria, Jake, and Ruby Robertson, and several close friends, including Fran Theodore, Carole Soliday, the community at Baldwin Street Lofts, and many, many more.

She was preceded in death by her beloved Donald Alexander Robertson, her parents, her sister Jean Brobst, her niece Jenna Brobst, and her nephews Derek Brobst and James Skubish. One of Don's last words to her was, "What I feel for you is deeper than love".

Her daughter Athena sang to her as she passed away, and her son Adam joined to perform the first rite of passage alongside his partner Anaïs and Athena's partner Alice.

We invite family, friends, and those whose lives were touched by Carol to a memorial on Sunday, October 29, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at her residence in Toronto. It will be an informal, drop-in gathering to reminisce and share stories. An officiated ceremony is at 12:30 pm, led by Deacon Sherry Coman. Comfortable attire is encouraged for this alcohol-free event.

Please RSVP for headcount and potluck contributions by following the link below.

<https://forms.gle/JAgnTD1yUfMmoAv68>

Expressions of grief, condolences, and memories are most welcome here.

In honouring Carol's legacy, we hope her spirit inspires all to pursue greater

truth and agency.

# Tribute Wall

WS

“ So many memories of this most compassionate of souls: Hong Kong, Chandos Lake, my apartment in Tokyo... although not always in frequent contact, Carol was a lodestone for me and the world seems so much paler now it no longer houses her vibrancy. My love to all her family. Vale Carol!

wendy spinks - January 20, 2024 at 09:03 PM

EW

“ So sorry to hear about Carol's passing. She was a compassionate and wise mentor and I will miss her greatly!

Eva Witkowska - November 26, 2023 at 01:10 PM

CC

“ So sorry to hear of Carol's passing. I hadn't seen her very much recently, but she was a longtime member (and former Executive member) of the Jubilate Singers. For a while she and I were two of the three Carols in the alto section (3 out of 9 - how often does that happen?). She, of course, was Carol #1 - the original Carol and always considered #1 by everybody. Her late husband Don was also a longtime member, and there are certain songs that I can never think of without hearing (and seeing) Don perform them. Don and Carol are both greatly missed.

Carol Chin - October 25, 2023 at 12:45 PM



“ I was touched by her gentleness which translated into the way she played the piano. We met at the Toronto Song Lovers and made some beautiful music together. Thank you, Carol!

Heide Zelmer - October 17, 2023 at 07:23 PM

Athena Reich

“ *From Carole Soliday:*



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**Athena Reich** - October 16, 2023 at 09:45 AM

Athena Reich

“ *17 files added to the album Memories*



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**Athena Reich** - October 12, 2023 at 06:53 PM

Athena  
Reich

“ 2/2

*5. I am grateful for medicine and science that has helped her fight cancer so many times throughout her life (this is her 3rd time). I continue to feel called to practice medicine to contribute and serve in this significant way. The doctor who called her time of death was incredibly compassionate. Astoundingly so. So inspiring. Adam, Alice, Anais Are came and we had blessings over her body and said our goodbyes.*

*I miss you mama! Miss our cuddles the most. And I can still hear the sound of your voice. Feel the vibrations of your alto. Missing hugs the most. xo*



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Athena Reich - October 12, 2023 at 06:50 PM

“ 1/2 With much sadness, I would like to announce that my amazing, strong, loving and smart mother Carol Musselman passed away last Wednesday. She asked if my brother or I could come help her that morning. I was able to come and I have so many amazing memories from her last day. My hands are shaking as I type this but also, I feel so strong and at peace as she had a loving, quick and peaceful passing. At the end of this post, I will share details about the memorial. A few beautiful moments I would like to share about her last day:

1. I gave her a cup of ice chips. She said, "Are these all for me?!" I said, "Oh yeah, of course!" And she said, "Really, I don't have to share them with anyone?!" And I said, "No and I can give you more! And then after, I'm gonna get you an ice chip machine, so you can have as many as you want!"

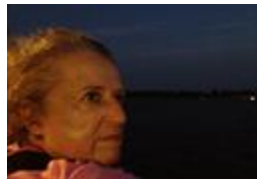
2. When the paramedics came, the guy said, "How are you doing dear?" And she said, "Don't call me dear!" LOL - a feminist until the end. Right on mom!

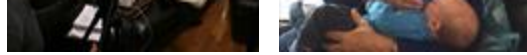
3. I feel so grateful and at peace because she was not alone, anxious or scared at all. I was with her every single moment. I placed my hand on an ice pack to cool my hand just right (not too cold, not too warm) at the temperature she needed right then. She said, "Oh that feels so good. You are sooo nice". I said, "Mom I'm with you every second and you are not going to be alone" as she was on the stretcher and in the ambulance. I was literally like my face right up against her cheek and holding her hand. I said, "You are an amazing mom. I love you. Wow, you are so beautiful! Look at your gorgeous eyes. You are so smart. Wow, think of what you have done Mom. From where you started, to becoming a Doctor! You are incredible". I said these things over and over, softly and slowly. I just felt pure simple love pouring out. I felt at peace and calm just like I was loving a baby. Getting to witness her passing feels like a beautiful blessing and I think helps with not feeling in shock cause I was really there and really see that her body was very weak. I told

her, "Mom you're blood pressure is low, you are going to be OK"  
And with great effort and huskiness she said, "Yeah I'm going to be OK".

*(trigger alert here about the medical part of her death)*

4. Of course many of us feel shocked as we just had lunch with her last week, or went to the ballet with her 2 weeks ago, so here's a bit of a medical explanation of what happened. What seems to have happened is she got a virus and her body just couldn't handle it. She was vomiting blood the night before and next morning but didn't tell anyone, or wasn't clear it was happening..? Her cancer was spreading pretty fast to her liver, she had just learned a few days before that she was going to have to start chemo again and had told Adam Reich she was ready to go through it. But she hated chemo. The more I reflect on it, the more I acknowledge how much weaker she was getting, how depressing having cancer has been for the past 3 years, and how much pain she was managing. Still, she was going to the shows, going out for lunches, and taking Phoenix to soccer, albeit with many naps and discomfort. So basically her blood pressure collapsed quite rapidly, from dehydration, but also likely from internal bleeding, poor thing. She was in severe pain from it during the last 24 hours but I did give her great comfort. The doctor said her body was very fragile, and even had we gotten her to the hospital sooner, even had she lasted for longer, it would not have been pleasant or comfortable for her. She didn't want to be in the hospital for months, she didn't want to go to a home. This was truly a beautiful and swift passing. She also at first told me NOT to call a doctor and I had to persuade her to go to the hospital. She was sort of pushing us away at first. Me and my brother feel like... it was sort of her time and she was ready to just... release.





Athena Reich - October 12, 2023 at 06:48 PM

VA

*Not sure who wrote this, but it's deep:*

*"Every minute someone leaves this world behind. We are all in "the line" without knowing it. We never know how many people are before us. We can not move to the back of the line. We can not step out of the line. We can not avoid the line. So while we wait in line:*

*Make moments count.*

*Make priorities.*

*Make the time.*

*Make your gifts known.*

*Make a nobody feel like a somebody.*

*Make your voice heard.*

*Make the small things big.*

*Make someone smile.*

*Make the change.*

*Make love.*

*Make up.*

*Make peace.*

*Make sure to tell your people they are loved.*

*Make sure to have no regrets.*

*Make sure you are ready."*

Valentina - October 15, 2023 at 07:52 PM



Athena Reich

*Love this*

Athena Reich - October 16, 2023 at 09:43 AM



Athena Reich

“ *Please feel free to share memories and thoughts. Click **OBITUARY & SERVICE** for info on the upcoming memorial.*

Athena Reich - October 12, 2023 at 04:58 PM

PH

*We have known Carol for over 20 years, ever since Kensington Market Lofts opened in 2000. We were some of the very first residents at KML, and we celebrated many birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events together. Dinner at Carol's spacious residence was always a treat. We were fortunate to have had Carol visit us two years ago, here at our Grenadier Retirement Home, for our 64th wedding anniversary party – the last time we saw Carol. As a remembrance, we have included a favourite picture showing our former neighbours Mitzi O'Keefe, Carol Musselman and Don Robertson.*

*Peter and Verity Hobbs*

*October 29, 2023*

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**Peter and Verity Hobbs** - October 29, 2023 at 10:39 AM