



Cindy Halewood

November 8, 2018

Cindy Halewood died November 8, 2018. After filling the past 27 months with as much love as possible, travelling to as many places as possible and seeing as many birds as possible her brain tumour proved too powerful and took her life.

Cindy is loved deeply by her wife Lisa Paemurd, her parents. William and Deane Halewood, her brothers Peter and Michael along with sister in laws Donna Young and My Yung Dang. Cindy certainly loved her siblings but it was the appearance of her nephews, Isaac, Lucas, Matteo and niece Linh that truly made her heart sing.

Cindy gained another family when she met Lisa. She was particularly pleased to get a sister and yet another brother in Eve and Dean Taylor. Cindy met her nieces, Kristin and Amber Taylor as young women and felt honoured to be so welcomed into their lives. She was overjoyed when the next generation of great nieces and nephews, India, Kalden, Keedus and Tiimo arrived

Cindy was a teacher and spent most of career teaching at the Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study. She was passionate about instilling a love of learning in her young students as well as mentoring future teachers. Cindy was an avid birder. She and Lisa would take ridiculous trips both near and far to try and see that next new bird.

Cindy and Lisa were together 29 year, married for 15 of them. As soon as it was legal they made it legal. They were meant for one another.

A memorial service will held in the near future. In lieu of flowers Cindy requested donations be made to the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.

We are hosting a memorial gathering to celebrate and honour Cindy's life on Sunday, November 25. It will be held in our condo's party room. Arrive anytime after 2 pm.

Cindy wanted this to be a time for family and friends to get together, share stories and raise a glass, one preferably filled with bubbly, and drink a toast in her honour.

1101 Leslie St. Level B1 - Party Room

Visitor parking access - Buzzer in front of building 1101.

TTC - 51 or 54 bus from Eglinton station

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Having had the pleasure of having Cindy be our classroom teacher 5 times we all have so many memories of bird stories, salmon hatchings, cardboard arcades and of course Shakespeare plays! Cindy loved to teach and had insight into each of our kids that helped us become better parents to them. One of my strongest memories was one of the kids (at age 7) spending hours of time and all his allowance to make a gift for Cindy to thank her for working so hard with them on the play, all on his own volition. Losing Cindy is a tragic loss--Lisa (and the rest of Cindy's family) we send you our condolences. We were hoping to make it to the memorial but were not able. We will continue to tell Cindy stories and remember her through memories.

Aviva Zukerman Schure and family - November 25, 2018 at 01:19 PM

JW

“ It was September 2000, Cindy’s first year at ICS, and ours too. Two dozen 3-year-olds piled into that big classroom at the south end of the building and were immediately caught up in the Cindy aura and the Cindy era, where learning happened communally, in big circles and with great joy. As a parent, it was incredibly hard to leave after drop-off when it would have been so much more thrilling to stick around and see what Cindy had in store that day.

Halloween was unforgettable: Cindy in the centre dressed as a farmer, surrounded by witches, robots, one baboon, and a not-very-sinister Darth Vader. Cindy persuaded each child that they were so convincing in the part as to be unrecognizable. Each one felt one inch – or 10% - taller.

We will never forget Digby Diaries where creating stories after school became a (gentle) competitive sport between families: “Oh, oh. The Holmes-Holzbergs took Digby skiing. What can we come back with?”

We reflect and write with great love for a teacher who shaped many little and big spirits. Jim, Margaret and George

Jim Williamson - November 24, 2018 at 08:04 PM

KT

“ Cindy taught my three children at JICS. They loved her. She managed to fill her classroom with lively learning along with care and compassion. She shared her passion and kind heart, and the children were secure and happy in her care. My condolences to Cindy’s Family, especially Lisa. We will always keep fond thoughts of Cindy with us. With warmth, Kristen Thomson

Kristen thomson - November 24, 2018 at 01:58 PM

EL

“ Cindy was more than just a teacher to my daughters at ICS. She will always hold a special place in our hearts for her support when I was in the hospital - she came over in the summer to take my girls out for ice cream! Her impact and influence on all our lives continues today: example 1: whenever we see an amazing bird (like snowy owls) we talk about Cindy; example 2: just last year I had an educational question that Cindy was perfectly suited to answer and I had a great call with her and Lisa. And I know that her influence will continue in the future: example 3: Cindy created the "No Biggie" book for Marshall and is something that we often look at and I look forward to bringing out at her wedding. We are privileged to have know her.

Elayne, Morgan & Marshall

Elayne Lester - November 23, 2018 at 05:38 PM

BB

“ Cindy had a big impact on both our children as a teacher at ICS. She inspired them to look deeper, question more and be themselves. As parents we always enjoyed her sense of humour and keen intelligence. We are all so very sorry to hear of Cindy's passing. She will be deeply missed by many. We send our deep condolences to Lisa and her family. Love, Belinda, James Jude and Imogen.

Belinda Bale - November 23, 2018 at 09:48 AM

GL

“ *The Leuty family will remember Cindy as an exceptional JK teacher. She had the ability to understand students as individuals and allow them to learn in ways that best suited them. One memory stands out: Paints and easels were set up in the hallway and students could sometimes choose when they wished to paint. One of our children would stand before the easel and spend the time mixing paint, watching the colours change, with none of it being applied to the paper. This was totally ok with Cindy; colour theory was being discovered! We will always have fond memories of Cindy. Our condolences to Lisa and both families.*
Ginny, Doug, Eric and Rebecca

Ginny Leuty - November 22, 2018 at 06:29 PM

LW

“ *Cindy and I went to high school together. I remember her to be larger than life...if not in stature. We tried to reconnect a few years ago on Facebook but alas life got in the way and now this...the universe is a bigger place because of her.*

lynn young watson - November 22, 2018 at 06:01 PM

MH

“ *Cindy was such a kind, supportive and passionate teacher of both our boys Max and Sam - she really was a big part of our ICS experience. We have endless memories of her in the classroom and on field trips she cooked up like going to Sibelius Park to "look for signs of Spring". Such sad news. Our condolences to her wife and family.*
Moira Holmes, Ben Mark Holzberg, Max and Sam Holzberg

Moira Holmes - November 21, 2018 at 05:32 PM

KI

“ Cindy had an amazing influence on so many children, including my own who had the good fortune of being students in her Grade 2 class at JICS a few years ago. It was a gift for them to have learned about what it means to have a passion (for birds and other things). They still often remember how their spelling tests consisted of words like papilla and plumage rather than the usual seven year old fare. Cindy believed that children were never too young to learn anything – including Shakespearean plays where it was perfectly normal for women to like women and men to like men, and for people to change genders along the way. Cindy brought enthusiasm and humor to her classrooms. She created everlasting memories for her students and their families and it was a privilege to have crossed paths with her.

Kiran Mirchandani



Kiran - November 21, 2018 at 12:14 PM

AN

“ Cindy was a wonderful and inspiring teacher to both of our children, and her passion still resonates with them now, over 10 years later. We send deepest condolences to her wife and family.

Jennifer, Nick, Magnus and Anna

Anna - November 18, 2018 at 05:41 PM

DG

“ The event that changed my life was having Cindy Halewood as my grade 2 teacher. I'd always been interested in the natural world and animals but Cindy introduced me to the idea that someone could engage so deeply with birds.

Cindy recommended books to me that would take me deeper and deeper into this brand new world of birds. She gave me a book “Kingbird Highway” by Ken Kaufman, a memoir about a year in which the author tried to see as many birds as possible. This was the first time I saw how all-encompassing birding could be. It showed me that a hobby could turn into something you spent your life on.

Cindy took us out on field trips and we saw many birds that marked the beginning of my birding life list, such as the Eastern Kingbird and the Blackburnian Warbler.

This hobby has defined much of my life since grade 2. I'm now extremely aware of the natural world. I now go birding during migration seasons, read birding books religiously, and may study birds in my later years of schooling. My life list is now at 280 different species.

I was extremely saddened when the next year Cindy did not return to teaching at the school because she developed brain cancer. From her, I learned to be aware of all joyful experiences the natural world can show us. I think about her every day. I remember those days after school when she and I would trade fragments of bird trivia and the terrible despair in my heart when I learned she wasn't coming back for my grade 3 year.

Cindy may be gone, but now I know how deeply one can love nature and understand birds. Thank you so much for giving me an amazing year and a lifetime perspective on the world, Cindy. - Isaac Buckstein



Danielle Goldfarb - November 18, 2018 at 03:41 PM

LA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Laura - November 15, 2018 at 11:36 AM

PS

“ Cindy was one of those Americans that made you think "Wow...if all Americans were like you, nobody would dislike Americans." Her knowledge and understanding of birds made the internet useless by comparison. She was great.

Peter Steen
Carol Stephenson
Emma & Charlotte

Peter Steen - November 14, 2018 at 06:39 PM

AC

“ Cindy was the very gifted JK teacher for both of my daughters - Sarah and Grace. Her commitment to equity and inclusion was enacted in everything she did, in her practice as a teacher, and in her passion as an advocate and human being. I send my condolences to Cindy's wife, and to Cindy's family, and wish them strength and peace. I will be forever grateful for Cindy's presence in our life as a JK teacher in the JICS Lab School so many years ago.

Anne Marie Chudleigh - November 13, 2018 at 03:09 PM

JL

“ Dear Lisa,

Paul and I send our deepest sympathies. We only met Cindy a couple of times but knew she was a very kind and generous woman who was lucky enough to share her love of bird watching and love of travel with you. Hold on to those memories. Thinking of you.

Jane & Paul Lajoie

Jane Lajoie - November 12, 2018 at 07:32 PM