



## Doreen (Dee) Birchmore

June 9, 2020

It is with great sadness that Doreen (Dee) Birchmore passed away Tuesday June 9th at Toronto General Hospital.

Dee lived life to the fullest, becoming a registered nurse, flight stewardess, psychologist, pilot, and accomplished painter. She loved cooking, travelling, orchids and her many cats.

Dee had a great working career at the Donwood Institute. She received her Masters in Education and practised group therapy and family therapy. She was promoted to the Director of the Day Clinic and became the first recipient of the Nath Nayar Memorial Research Award.

After getting her private and commercial pilot's licence and instrument rating, Dee joined the Ninety-Nines Women Pilots Association. She said it was the best thing she ever did after having children. She went on many flights with her fellow pilots including Mackinac, Cape Kennedy, to see Dave Williams blast off and annual Gold Cup Air Rallies to several destinations. Dee also flew all over Ontario with Operation Skywatch, monitoring and taking pictures of pollution. One of her most memorable trips was when Dee led several of her flying sisters to Meadow Lake Saskatchewan, where they were welcomed by the mayor, her grade one teacher, (then 91) and a former boyfriend. Moreover, Dee was honoured to receive the first Ninety-Nines Women Pilots

Butterfly Award. Dee flew airplanes until she was eighty two years old.

Dee also painted many years with the Willowdale, Banbury Art Groups and the Don Valley Art Club. She made many friends as a long-time member of The Don Valley Art Club (DVAC) in Toronto. Dee won art show awards and volunteered on the social committee. She painted in watercolour, acrylics and created beautiful monoprints and collographs.

Devoted mother of Jane (Ernst) and Jim (Cecilia). Adored grandmother of David, Rebecca, Christopher, and Carolyn. Loving sister to Dolores, "Del"(predeceased) and brother Leonard, "Len".

Dee lived life with passion and was a mentor to many of us. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends. A celebration of life will take place at a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, donations to be sent to the First Canadian Chapter of the Ninety Nines Toronto or Don Heights Unitarian Fellowship.

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ *Canada Day 2009, Dee In the backyard of Bev Percival's home celebrating with friends who met in the seventies: counterclockwise, Dee, Sue Gerhard, Bev Percival and in the middle, Wayne Anderson.*

*One of many happy gatherings over the years,*

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**Sue Gerhard** - July 03, 2020 at 01:25 PM

CH

“ *I met Dee 3 years ago when I joined the Don Valley Art Club. She was so kind and generous with her praise and interest in the club and all its' members. We took a printmaking workshop together and started emailing back and forth about all things to do with printmaking. I always enjoyed those emails and in the process got to know about her interesting life and our mutual love of cats. She really was one of a kind, I will miss her terribly and send my condolences to her family. A great loss for all of us.*  
*Christine*

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**Christine** - June 19, 2020 at 10:41 PM



“ *To Everyone Who Loved Doreen:  
What a lady. We worked together for many years at The Donwood. Doreen was a classy lady. Always dressed to the 9's. Always a smile and time for a conversation and advice. I remember her getting her Master's Degree, her pilot's license and her cars. We did not see much of each other after Dr. Bell and I set up Bellwood but Doreen was never far from our hearts. I remember her voice, oh so well. She is soaring onward and upwards, as always. You are in my heart dear lady. May blessings shower upon your family at this time of transition. A donation is being sent to the Ninety-nine's in your memory.*  
Sincerely  
Linda Bell

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**Linda Bell** - June 17, 2020 at 08:21 PM

MK

“ *Dear loved ones of Doreen -  
I am sincerely sorry for the sad loss of Doreen from your lives. I have only fond memories of Doreen as she was always so very kind to me. I remember her lovely smile and her gentle, pleasant presence very well. May she rest in peace now. Wishing you all comfort and God's presence during this difficult time.*  
Michelle Kaye

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**Michelle Kaye** - June 17, 2020 at 11:01 AM

BS

“ *I will miss our monthly breakfasts at Pickle Barrell filled with gossip, celebration and comraderie. Dee was ageless and a loyal, wonderful friend. I would have liked to have been able to see her just one more time.*

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**Barbara Santamaria** - June 16, 2020 at 08:19 PM

CB

“ I want to tell you how much I cared for Dee. I was a nutritionist at the Donwood when I first met her and for several years we shared an office. We talked a lot about cooking and I have several of Dees handwritten recipes in my recipe box. We lost touch for several years, but then I found she was best friends with my neighbour Susan Asquith!! So in the past couple of years we have had many delightful conversations and get togethers. In typical Dee fashion she convinced me I could indeed ice the wedding cakes for both my sons who Are in their 50' sand both got married last year. And of course she came to my house to help even though she felt like crap.!!!

I cannot believe I won't talk to her again and can't imagine what a loss it is for all of you in the family. She particularly mentioned her grandchildren and how proud she was of them.

With love and such fond memories of an exceptional woman  
Carolyn Barber

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**carolyn Barber** - June 16, 2020 at 06:49 PM