



Judy Gorman

September 19, 2024

Judy Gorman died at home, among family and friends on September 19th in Toronto at the age of 60. She is survived by her not-even-close-to-being-in-her-league husband Mark Nesbitt, her sister Barb and brother Ian, and a motley assortment of nieces and nephews who thought she was the cats' pyjamas.

Judy was born in Kingston, raised in Kingston and graduated from Queens University (also in Kingston) with Honours in Biology. She continued her education by certifying as a Medical Radiation Therapist and then headed to Toronto "for just a few years" to work at Sunnybrook Cancer Centre.

After Multiple Sclerosis derailed her career plans, Judy sang with choirs, volunteered as a bunny cuddler and helped local hospitals become more user-friendly for newcomers and the disabled. She gave cash to the homeless, talked to everyone she met and used her walker like a chariot to get on and off the subway. She pushed back against a whole host of medical issues throughout her life, but always found the joy. She had enough medical specialists to make up a terrible baseball team, and at least one extra pancreas. It used to belong to somebody else.

She re-met an old summer camp boyfriend as an adult, and promptly married him, leading to a 29-year adventure travelling across Canada by plane, train and automobile. She charmed fish out of the water in the Northwest

Territories, fed feral bunnies in Nova Scotia and stayed in cabins, cottages and cabooses (it's true!) from Vancouver to St. John's.

Her favourite colour was purple, she was a cheese snob and was fiercely loved by her husband. Her friends and family were the most valuable commodity in her life.

There was only one Judy Gorman, and we were lucky to have her as long as we did.

Donations can be made to either the Alliston & District Humane Society, provider of fine bunny rabbits and Guinea pigs for your cuddling pleasure, or to Diabetes Canada's Camp Huronda, a place for kids with diabetes which gave Judy lifelong friends and at least one husband. The camp is trying to upgrade their ancient washrooms, so help them buy a toilet for Judy. She would get a good chuckle out of that.

Tribute Wall

DA

“ I am very sad to hear that Judy has died. I first met Judy at a meeting of the SHN Patient Family Advisory Council, we both volunteered our time at the hospital as patient family advisors.

I wish to express my sincere condolences to the family, my thoughts and prayers are with you

Dr Doreen Ablack



Doreen Ablack - December 05, 2024 at 11:52 AM

LW

“ Mark we are so sorry to hear of your loss. We have fond memories of your wedding day, and Judy's wry, happy bride smile, bubbles blowing all around. We are sad for your whole family....another empty place amongst you. Makes us smile to think of Judy coaxing your Dad to cuddle bunnies with her in heaven. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Greg and Laurie White

Laurie & Greg White - September 24, 2024 at 09:24 PM

“ How does one describe someone so diminutive in physical stature and yet, whose beauty of soul & character could outshine the sun? I met her in hospital, as we both suffered from extreme chronic pain & other medical issues. She struck me as unique from the very first moment. She had deep, soulful eyes, very impressive eye brows & a penetrating gaze. When someone spoke; they truly had her undivided attention. Her every response evidenced that very fact. But, when she spoke about her migraines & other pain; she captivated the attention of every pain sufferer in the room. I had attended other pain clinics before that, but I had never heard anyone speak about their pain & illness with such eloquence and creativity. She talked about something very debilitating with unequalled openness, honesty & courage. But, that wasn't the most amazing part. She described it with beauty & wit. She was an artist with words. Many people speak or write books, poems & songs about love and/or beautiful things & easily succeed. Never before nor since, have I heard or read beautifully expressed truths about monumental physical pain, by anyone else. I view my extreme chronic pain in a very different light, ever since then. In "the mindfulness solution to pain" book by her doctor, Dr. Jackie Gardner-Nix, I later read Judy's poem "A Journey with Pain" on pg.s 187 -188. It was a light hearted & yet, very meaningful message about her unique approach to pain. I could imagine a cute & annoying pain gremlin beside her in the car. One she could extinguish at times, with mindfulness approaches & movements and carry on enjoying the ride of her life. For me, that just about sums up Judy, her awesome, unique presence & how she lived her life. She triumphed over her numerous & very formidable adversaries (M.S., diabetes, migraines, pneumonia, broken hips, foot problems, etc...) & went on to live a very full, rich & accomplished life. She was very passionate about everything: learning, crafts, music, dance, nature, art, guinea pigs, bunnies, a horse named Gandalf, singing, math & the sciences, cuisine, peace, the environment, family, friends & most of all, her husband of almost 30 years, Mark. She was an unqualified success at everything she set her mind on (except a certain musical instrument) and matters of the heart &

soul. Illness often knocked her down, but, just like Mohamed Ali, the prize fighter; nothing could keep her down. She was a very dear friend & a truly rare jewel in this whacky & wonderful World. She was a brilliant student & accomplished amazing feats, all considered, as a single woman. She found a very profound love with a great guy named Mark. They were madly in love. They were also like George & Gracie; a great comedy duo. Despite their health issues & crises; they squeezed every bit of love, joy, fun & laughter out of life; that anyone could possibly hope for. She blazed a trail across the sky & touched every life in her path with wit, truth, courage, wisdom, hope, love, empathy & generosity. She shone bright & strong & much longer than other "falling stars". And we are better human beings, for having known her. Now, she has taken her place amongst the stars, so that all may cast their eyes upward & feel the inspiration, wonder, awe & gratitude that we were blessed with for so long. Thank you my friend & sister of the heart. Until we meet again. Big hugs, Beth

Beth Heffernan - September 24, 2024 at 08:23 PM

CW

“ *Judy had a sneak-up-on-you sense of humour realized when you saw the sparkle in her eyes. Very caring lady, and a real fighter. Mark, so sorry for the loss of your partner of life.- Carmen Weatherup, Fallingbrook*

C Weatherup - September 24, 2024 at 01:07 PM

LH

“ Judy will be truly missed! I have so many memories but one memory is about her rabbits! I went to visit her at their previous place and she had the bunnies out of their cage. There Judy was sitting on the floor with her posse of rabbits all over her and hopping around. If I remember there were 3 or 4, they had Shakespearean names!! Bunnies were her joy!! I picture her now in heaven, hopping along with her posse of furry friends!!

Louise Hannah - September 24, 2024 at 12:26 PM