



## Ms. Nancy Lou Gottschalk

September 25, 2013

It is with great sadness that the family and friends of Nancy Gottschalk announce her passing on September 25th, 2013. Nancy was born in Binghamton, New York where she spent her early years. She completed her nursing degree and worked in the field until her passion for singing led her in another direction. Married to Barry Cooke, the couple moved to San Francisco and then onto Toronto where she continued her musical studies by enrolling in the University of Toronto's Opera School. Nancy's considerable talents were recognized and she performed a number of roles with the school and the Canadian Opera Company. Following graduation, Nancy headed to Europe to sing in Geneva, and then with Opera for All and the Scottish Opera. After her return to Canada, she worked in the School of Graduate Studies, Department of History, University of Toronto where she met her late partner, the historian, Archibald P. Thornton. The couple lived together for many years in the Broadview area of Toronto until Archie's death in 2004. Nancy had a life-long love for animals. She owned numerous dogs over the years, many of whom were rescue dogs. As well, she housed several pair of house finches with which she frequently sang duets. She was a strong advocate for animal welfare and social justice issues and generously supported many organizations promoting these causes. Her many other interests included French cooking, calligraphy, Charles Dickens and the arts. Nancy was very proud of her Canadian citizenship and in her latter years, she was a keen observer of the political scene. Nancy endeared herself to her neighbours with

her kindness, her generosity to the young people in the neighbourhood, her deep and hearty laugh and her 'old world' charm and sensibility. She leaves a brother, David and several nieces and nephews in the United States, as well as many dear friends and wonderful neighbours who together displayed their love and caring for Nancy during these last months. She will be well remembered and much missed.

# Tribute Wall

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“ Nancy hired me 27 1/2 years ago to work at SGS, my first position at UofT. Having worked in the business sector previously, it was a unique experience working for someone who would break out into song intermittently and I can still hear her deep and hearty laugh. There were afternoon tea breaks and visits from Mungo, the Irish Water Spaniel - Archie's retirement present. Nancy also "mothered" my husband through his history PhD in her previous position in the History Department. He was very impressed that she came to the Convocation ceremony to see "her" students graduate. She was a warm and caring person. The time has gone by way too quickly. My deepest sympathies to her loved ones.

*Teresa Lemieux and David MacKenzie*

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**Teresa Lemieux** - October 02, 2013 at 08:28 AM