

Gwenyth Brigid Dwyn (Nee Gwen Klassen)

OCTOBER 7, 2026



**GWENYTH BRIGID DWYN (NEE GWEN KLASSEN), October 15, 1961-
October 7, 2026**

It is with great sorrow that we announce Gwen's passing at the Royal Columbian Hospital, a week after a tragic accident that took her from us too soon. Gwen grew up in Surrey, BC. She was the beloved daughter of Ronald Klassen, who pre-deceased her and whose death broke her heart, and Lorretta Theroux, who Gwen loved deeply and who she moved back to BC in 2021 to be near.

Gwen is survived by her adoring feline companion, Gracie, her mother, Lorretta, her beloved brother Gary (Barb), her nephews Kelly (Jamie), Joel, and Charlie, and her great nieces Lily and Isla and great nephew Landon, her many aunts, uncles and cousins, her cherished godson Silas Conlin-Morse, and his brothers Milo and Angus Brown, as well as many close friends in Nova Scotia, BC and the US, including her soul-sisters Dale Gruchy, Lesley Hartman and Christy-Ann Conlin. Gwen was also pre-deceased by her mother's faithful companion of many years, Eddie Arsenault.

Gwen studied theatre at Acadia University in Wolfville, NS. She loved theatre and acted in, produced and directed many plays. A diagnosis of Myasthenia Gravis in her 30's interfered with her dream of pursuing a professional acting career. Gwen came through surgery for the condition with flying colours and went on to obtain a Masters in Counselling at Goddard College in Vermont. She found a niche for

herself working in public health with both the Nova Scotia Health Authority and later, Fraser Health. A skilled communicator, facilitator, researcher and community organizer, she had a significant impact on public policy and programming in legal substances (smoking cessation and prevention of harmful uses of alcohol and marijuana) in both provinces.

Filled with integrity, she was committed to social justice. She gave her time and extensive skills to many causes that were close to her heart, supporting multiple community organizations including those fighting for women to be safe from violence and oppression, those assisting people who struggle to find employment, ones for people living with mental health and addictions, and youth-serving organizations. For over a decade, Gwen was a part of a group of women who passionately worked to shift the culture of violence in the lived experiences of rural women and girls in the Annapolis Valley of Nova Scotia.

Gwen was a model of courage, never afraid to challenge injustice and invite people to be kinder, better, more thoughtful. Gwen spoke her truth articulately and with compassion. In addition to her practical contributions to the community, she shared her learning, projects and work with other communities through publications and international conferences. Many people and communities benefited, often unknowing, from her work.

Gwen was a deeply spiritual woman who identified as both a Quaker and a witch. Whether it was working with High Schoolers at national gatherings, offering pastoral support in her local Quaker meeting, teaching ritual skills or facilitating meaningful ceremony, Gwen lived her spirituality, contributing in a multitude of ways to both the Quaker and pagan communities.

Gwen nurtured others in multiple ways. She was the one at every meeting who jumped in and did whatever was needed to ensure things ran smoothly, that people felt welcome and were well cared for. She would make sure people were fed, and

was someone who could turn beach rocks into a delicious banquet at any gathering.

Gwen was the most generous, warm, giving and loyal daughter, sister and friend you could ever have. She would go to the ends of the earth for her loved ones, including flying across the country to provide the most spectacular physical and emotional care for them when they were in need or trouble, being a heart listener who deeply understood the things a person felt, and staying present with people in their darkest times. Gwen cherished four legged beings, and she was always amongst their favourite people, drawn to her big heart and loving disposition.

All are welcome to attend a burial service for our beloved Gwen on Thursday, October 15, 2026 at 1 pm at the Heritage Gardens Cemetery, 19082---16th Avenue, South Surrey. An open house reception after the burial service will be held from 3-5 pm at the Whalley Legion Branch 229, #102--10626 City Parkway. (Street parking is on 106 Ave. and City Parkway and underground parking is off of 135A St. behind the Legion).

In lieu of flowers, and in honour of Gwen's spirit of generosity and care, please make a donation to the charity or community organization of your choice.

Messages of Condolence

Rest in peace Dear Gwen. I only met you twice but that's all it took for me to realize what a beautiful soul you were. Fly high with the angels.□□□□□

— **Linda Bailey**

Gwen was a force of love and empowerment in my life. I am deeply saddened by her loss. To her family: my most sincere condolences and love. Emma from Nova Scotia

— **Emma Van Rooyen**

Dear family and friends of Gwenyth, I grieve along with you that our world has lost such a special person. I met Gwenyth about this time last year, when she attended and volunteered at Vancouver's Samhain (Halloween) celebration. She was an immense help! She saw what needed to be done and did it, organizing things beautifully, She had lovely energy about her and I was eager to get to know her better. Recently we needed an overnight host for someone who was travelling here for BC Witch Camp, and Gwenyth offered not only to host but to provide 2 way transport to the airport. She seemed to me to be unfailingly generous. It feels impossible that one can ever recover from the shock of losing someone special so suddenly, but I do wish you all the best in that. I am very sorry for your loss. Sincerely, Lola Myserie

— **Lola Myserie**

Ah dear Gwen! Thanks for everything. Heartfelt Condolences to everyone fortunate enough to have known and loved Gwen. May all the memories of her character and deeds ease your grief and inspire your very best.

— **Kimberly Smith, Kathleen Purdy & Brendon Alexander Purdy-Smith**

Gwen was a light. Her amazing laugh filled the room, her warmth provided safety, and her authenticity was aspirational. She was a source of wisdom, compassion, and strength. I will miss her dearly. My deepest condolences, a beautiful soul gone too soon. May she rest in peace.

— **Hattaw Khalid**

My deepest condolences to the family. I have no words. Our community feels your pain and loss as well. I saw her being flown out and she looked at me before getting on the medivac. I prayed everyday for her and the family. Forever in my thoughts ☐☐

— **NatashaSlade**

What an incredible loss. My condolences to the family. She was unknown to us until now, yet she was in our prayers every day.

— **Valerie**

Gwen, you will be missed more than words can express. I am grateful to have known you and to have shared a few good years with you as a colleague and a friend. Your warmth and energy will stay in our hearts. The office will never be the same without your presence, your laughter, and your spirit. Rest peacefully, Gwen. You left us far too soon, but you will never be forgotten.

— **Sepia Sharma**

I knew Gwen before she went to Nova Scotia in the '80's. We were all so young then. Everything everyone has said here fits into the Gwen "back then" person I knew. So sorry for the great loss of a one-in-kind beautiful person to all her family and friends and others that knew her. May you all be surrounded by love at this hard time.

— **Anni Valentine**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/gwenyth-dywn-nee-gwen-klassen>

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