



## Gwen Cooper

September 30, 2018

Before Gwen left us on Sunday, September 30th from a nine-month struggle with cancer, she shared her gratitude for a full life, loving family and wonderful friends.

She attended Hathaway Brown School, Skidmore College, The University of Minnesota and graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art and Kent State University with a Masters of Fine Art.

After 30 years as an art professor, she retired from the Institute of Art. She was acclaimed for her inspirational teaching skills in drawing, printmaking, design and painting. While there, she developed and chaired the Institute's Papermaking Department.

Gwen loved and excelled in many sports. An excellent tennis player and avid downhill ski racer. She was a level 4 ski instructor teaching downhill ski racing and was a nationally ranked NASTAR downhill racer.

Gwen loved nature and was a guide for many years at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center. She developed an interest in orchids, joining the American Orchid Society where members were soon coming to her for advice. Her love and caring for animals inspired her to show her Corgi dog around the mid-west winning several awards.

What ever she did she was always "all in".

She was extremely inquisitive, perceptive and had a very keen eye for detail which showed not only in her art but in the decorating of her Sarasota home. Reading was another joy and she relished illustrious historical novels and the

great classics. She always visited several art museums throughout Europe, sketching the buildings and people, during her numerous trips with her husband Bill.

Her talents were many fold, and she shared them generously, thereby touching many peoples' lives profoundly. She had so much to offer.

Gwen is survived by her husband Bill, Sarasota Florida, son Larry(Laura), Portland Oregon, daughter Lesley(Kevin) Geraci, Denver Colorado, four grandchildren (Wyatt, Olivia Cooper, K. Graham, Jackson Geraci), her sister Lynn(Alan) Wood, Pepper Pike Ohio sister-in-law and brother-in-law Elise & Larry Bennett, Novelty Ohio and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Services will be private. Contributions can be made in her name to:

The Cleveland Institute of Art, 11610 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland 44106, Attn: Alumni Office or Mote Marine, 1600 Ken Thompson Pky, Sarasota Fl, 34236, Attn: Development Office

# Tribute Wall



“ We were so sorry to hear about Gwen. You were both a wonderful part of our lives.

*Carol and Mark - South Euclid*

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November 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Gwen's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. I have very fond memories with Gwen on the tennis court at The Cleveland Racquet Club and more recently at Purvis Park playing Saturday mornings. She was lovely inside and out.

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**Angela Auletta** - October 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Gwen was a powerhouse, a force to be reckoned with, in all areas of her life. She strived to be her best and she was in all aspects of her life. She had so many titles and was a success in every one of them.

*I was blessed to be one of her cousins.*

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**Jill Noviski** - October 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Psalm 90:10 says that the days of our years are 70 years, And if because of special mightiness they are 80 years.  
*May the memories of the wonderful times you shared together bring a smile and joy in your heart.*

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October 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ *Very sorry to hear about Gwen's passing.  
Condolences and Prayers to the Family.*



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**Jefferson Rogers** - October 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Dear Bill and family,  
We were stunned and saddened by learning of Gwen's passing.  
Since you left Shaker Heights we have thought of both of you often  
and miss your presence on Lynton Rd. Please accept our deepest  
sympathy and know we are thinking of you at this time.  
Love,  
Ruth and Alex Fazekas*

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**Ruth Fazekas** - October 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *We loved you, Gwen! Our Voran family has the nicest bunch of  
cousins and she was certainly one of the best! We will miss you so  
much. Love and hugs to the Cooper and Wood families. Bethe  
Voran Meslis*

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**Bethe Meslis** - October 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *I have such wonderful memories of Gwen. We will  
miss her. She was a very special friend.*

*Molly Jaffe*

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October 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *May God bless you and your family in this time of sorrow.*

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October 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Gwen, I and soo many others in the Cleveland community shared many fun times on the tennis court, practicing "short game" volleys, drills, and playing. Gwen was a fair player and possessed the most graceful strokes in the game! What made our relationship more incredible was our love of art and discussing the many techniques, especially her paper making (and stuff in the freezer for that) and the many fine artists from Cleve her friends Tom Balboa and Nick Laviach, The Morgan, etc and how "all in" she was about keeping the art of paper making alive. What a student and teacher of everything she did, even her downhill skiing!! Thank you Gwen for being many pieces to my life's puzzle. Bill, Leslie and Larry my heartfelt condolences to you all. She will be truly missed. Our newest brightest star has entered the Universe. RIP dear Gwen xo*

*Teri Ianni, CLE*

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October 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *thank you dear Gwen, for being my wonderful and kind teacher. Love to all your family and loved ones.*

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October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *What a loss! She inspired so many of us with her positivity and enthusiasm. I owe her a lot! Condolences to you all.*

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**Jeanetta Ho** - October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Bill, so very sorry to learn of Gwen's passing. Was just thinking of her the other day as I watered the Boston fern she gave me (it's got to be close to 28 years old now). She was a very special lady.

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**Lynda Spilar** - October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ As a non-traditional "older than the norm" student at CIA, Gwen treated me like the others, holding me to high standards. She shared her love of paper-making and inspired me to continue my art. She will be missed.

*Denise Stewart*

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**Denise Stewart** - October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Gwen was kind, creative and encouraged my creative expressions when I took her papermaking classes. I cherish those memories and attempt each day to be as kind, generous and encouraging to others as she was to me as her student. Thank you Gwen.

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**Kathryn Mierke, MA,ATR** - October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Gwen was a kind and talented professor. I enjoyed working with her at CIA. She cared so much about her students. I also enjoyed her art and enjoyed talking to her about her travels, her art process and students at CIA. Condolences to your family, she was a wonderful woman.

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**Jill Milenski** - October 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Gwen was a caring and encouraging professor and a dear friend over the years since graduation. I'm so sorry to hear of her passing. Wishing her loved ones peace.*

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**Michael Mikula** - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PY

“ *She was very supportive and generous with her time and advice. Please accept my condolences.*

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**Paul Yanko** - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ *I was stunned when I got the message concerning Gwen's passing. Her impact on my education and attitude about Art was immeasurable. my deepest condolences to her family.*

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**albert kauslick** - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ *One of my favorite profs during my time at CIA. Sorry to learn of her passing. Peace and condolences to her family.*

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**Ted Haughawout** - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *Condolences to the family, so sorry for your loss of your loved one. ❤️*

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**Patty** - October 04, 2018 at 12:00 AM