



**Honouring Service for Kathleen (Kay) Muttart
(March 19, 1926 - October 22, 2016)**

~ Honouring Mother — Susanne Alexander (incl. Honouring of Grandma Kay by Jennifer DeMaria)

Karen McKye: Create in me a pure heart, O my God, and renew a tranquil conscience within me, O my Hope! Through the spirit of power confirm Thou me in Thy Cause, O my Best-Beloved, and by the light of Thy glory reveal unto me Thy path, O Thou the Goal of my desire! Through the power of Thy transcendent might lift me up unto the heaven of Thy holiness, O Source of my being, and by the breezes of Thine eternity gladden me, O Thou Who art my God! Let Thine everlasting melodies breathe tranquillity on me, O my Companion, and let the riches of Thine ancient countenance deliver me from all except Thee, O my Master, and let the tidings of the revelation of Thine incorruptible Essence bring me joy, O Thou Who art the most manifest of the manifest and the most hidden of the hidden! (Bahá'u'lláh)

~ Honouring Kay — Universal House of Justice and National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Canada, delivered by Karen McKye

~ Music — *With the Joyful Tidings*

Stephen Foyle: A friend asked: "How should one look forward to death?" 'Abdu'l-Bahá answered: "How does one look forward to the goal of any journey? With hope and with expectation. It is even so with the end of this earthly journey. In the next world, man will find himself freed from many of the disabilities under which he now suffers. Those who have passed on through death, have a sphere of their own. It is not removed from ours; their work, the work of the Kingdom, is ours; but it is sanctified from what we call 'time and place.' Time with us is measured by the sun. When there is no more sunrise, and no more sunset, that kind of time does not exist for man. Those who have ascended have different attributes from those who are still on earth, yet there is no real separation.

"In prayer there is a mingling of station, a mingling of condition. Pray for them as they pray for you! When you do not know it, and are in a receptive attitude, they are able to make suggestions to you, if you are in difficulty. This sometimes happens in sleep." ('Abdu'l-Bahá)

~ Honouring Kay — Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Richmond Hill, Vafa Ashraf

Bill Sims: Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter. It will endure as long as the Kingdom of God, His sovereignty, His dominion and power will endure. It will manifest the signs of God and His attributes, and will reveal His loving kindness and bounty ...

The honour with which the Hand of Mercy will invest the soul is such as no tongue can adequately reveal, nor any other earthly agency describe. ... The nature of the soul after death can never be described, nor is it meet and permissible to reveal its whole character to the eyes of men. The Prophets and Messengers of God have been sent down for the sole purpose of guiding mankind to the straight Path of Truth. The purpose underlying Their revelation hath been to educate all men, that they may, at the hour of death, ascend, in the utmost purity and sanctity and with absolute detachment, to the throne of the Most High...

The light which these souls radiate is responsible for the progress of the world and the advancement of its peoples. They are like unto leaven which leaveneth the world of being, and constitute the animating force through which the arts and wonders of the world are made manifest. Through them the clouds rain their bounty upon men, and the earth bringeth forth its fruits ...

The world beyond is as different from this world as this world is different from that of the child while still in the womb of its mother. When the soul attaineth the Presence of God, it will assume the form that best befiteth its immortality and is worthy of its celestial habitation. (Bahá'u'lláh)

Dr. Rabbani: Chanted Prayer

Vafa Akhavan: O SON OF BEING! Bring thyself to account each day ere thou art summoned to a reckoning; for death, unheralded, shall come upon thee and thou shalt be called to give account for thy deeds. (Bahá'u'lláh)

~ Honouring Mother — Daved Muttart

Behjat Hakimi: Lord, O Thou Whose mercy hath encompassed all, Whose forgiveness is transcendent, Whose bounty is sublime, Whose pardon and generosity are all-embracing, and the lights of Whose forgiveness are diffused throughout the world! O Lord of Glory! I entreat Thee, fervently and tearfully, to cast upon Thy handmaiden who hath ascended unto Thee the glances of the eye of Thy mercy. Robe her in the mantle of Thy grace, bright with the ornaments of the celestial Paradise, and, sheltering her beneath the tree of Thy oneness, illumine her face with the lights of Thy mercy and compassion.

Bestow upon Thy heavenly handmaiden, O God, the holy fragrances born of the spirit of Thy forgiveness. Cause her to dwell in a blissful abode, heal her griefs with the balm of Thy reunion, and, in accordance with Thy will, grant her admission to Thy holy Paradise. Let the angels of Thy loving-kindness descend successively upon her, and shelter her beneath Thy blessed Tree. Thou art, verily, the Ever-Forgiving, the Most Generous, the All-Bountiful. ('Abdu'l-Bahá)

~ Music — *Amazing Grace*



My mother began life as a small-town girl in Ohio and ended up life as a world citizen living in Canada, traveling all over Europe and the Caribbean and as far away as Africa. She started out as a member of a Christian church and grew to accept all religions as being from God, and to believe in Bahá'u'lláh and the Báb as the new messengers from God for today's world. She intended to be a schoolteacher, and ended up spending most of her adult working life at the Canadian Bahá'í National Centre. She started out engaged to one man and ended up married to our father, giving birth to three children and adopting a fourth. She felt motherhood was one of the greatest gifts she had received in life. Mom started out playing baseball in college, and ended up in her recliner passionately watching the Blue Jays play. You notice that she only passed on after they lost the chance to go on to the World Series!

Mom lived to age 90, a year longer than her own mother, in spite of being an almost lifelong smoker. Most of her life she looked younger than she was, helped in part by dying her hair almost to the end. She was passionate about keeping her mind active after retiring at age 82, every day watching Wheel of Fortune, Jeopardy, and game shows with challenging questions. She regularly read novels and did crossword puzzles. She did service projects for the Baha'is of Richmond Hill. Every professional she met with over the last two years heard her confident assertion, "I still have all my marbles!"

Mom loved to eat, and insisted her restaurant wait staff and caregivers provide her meals hot and on time. She loved everything chocolate. She greatly missed going out to eat once she could no longer drive. Yesterday my husband and I ate at Kelsey's restaurant, one of her favorites. The owner and two of the staff came and shared how much they appreciated her. Mom was adamantly determined to avoid nursing homes and fiercely committed to live at home to the end. She accomplished that. There were hospital and convalescent care adventures over the last two years, but she was at home until the last few hours at the hospital. Three falls on Friday and finally some bleeding in her brain, and it was time for her soul to go on to the next life on Saturday morning.

Each of mom's children would tell you something different about her I'm sure, but we all agree how much we love her and how appreciative we are for all she did for us. Swimming and music lessons and the encouragement to be educated have served us all well. She gave me the opportunity to learn about proofreading, editing, and writing when I was a teenager and she was editor of the Canadian Bahá'í News, skills that I still use daily. I learned how to manage the details of home and work in an organized fashion, skills my husband appreciates, and she appreciated as I began coordinating her caregiving and finances over the last two years. One of our life-long favorite activities was going out shopping for new clothes, and she especially loved the color red. When she sadly could no

longer go shopping with me, she would hand me her credit card and then enjoy me modeling what I bought when I returned back home.

I watched my mother throughout her early married years often feeling like she had little voice in life choices, especially moves across the country. As she and my father became Baha'is, the teachings about equality and the importance of making consultative decisions challenged them...often. It was an important lesson for me though in watching her finally claim her full voice. Each generation since has then worked harder to claim equal partnership with our spouses and relationship partners. It's been a growth process across the generations.

Many people loved mom and considered her a mentor and a friend. She was known to all for her helpfulness and generosity. She loved to bake, and many people remember the pies she brought to potlucks, staff events, and family gatherings. She was an introvert, so she struggled at times with being in a world that values extroverts and constant activities. In her later years, she was perfectly happy to spend time alone, punctuated by visits from others.

I feel amazingly blessed to have had my mother alive until I was 60 years old. We traveled together, shopped together, and shared the details of our lives. As adults we became close friends. I appreciated her input as I chose to marry. I treasure what I learned from her, and her example as a steadfast Bahá'í and maidservant of God. She was my greatest encourager and champion. I'm trusting that she will still be a great advocate and helper for me and many others as she settles into her new state of being in the next world and receives her new service assignments. I'm grateful that God gave her to me as my Mom.

From: Jennifer DeMaria

Subject: For the program

My grandmother told me many times that someday, when she was gone, she wanted to be remembered for her generosity. I think that anyone who knew her would agree that she accomplished this and so much more. Grand ma was the strongest, classiest, smartest, most no-nonsense woman I've ever had the pleasure to know. And she was so very generous. Generous with material things absolutely, but also generous with her love, generous with her encouragement, generous with her wisdom, and generous with her humor. She taught me to always fight for what is right even when it is hard. She taught me to enjoy the good things in life like a great beach vacation, a shopping trip with her and my mom, or nice meal out with family or friends. She taught me that it is okay to be imperfect and that sometimes that imperfection is kind of what life is all about. She taught me that adventure is good and that everyone should go on a crazy road trip at least once. She taught me that the people worth having in your life love you even if you didn't have time to vacuum. Most of all she taught me that I could chart my own course in life and that I should never apologize for going my own way. Grand ma was feisty and stubborn and funny and wonderful and I will miss her more than words can say. Love you Grand Ma Kay. ❤️

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

25 October 2016

Transmitted by email: secretariat@cdnbnc.org

The National Spiritual Assembly
of the Bahá'ís of Canada

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The Universal House of Justice was very sorry to learn from your email letter of 22 October 2016, sent by your Secretary to one of its members, of the passing of Kay Muttart, faithful handmaiden of Bahá'u'lláh. May her many years of devoted service to the Cause be a source of inspiration to all who knew her. Kindly extend the loving sympathy of the House of Justice to her family and loved ones and assure them of its supplications at the Sacred Threshold for the progress of her soul throughout the worlds of God. Prayers will also be offered for the comfort and solace of their hearts in their bereavement.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat

25 October 2016 / 11 Knowledge 173

To the family of Kay Muttart
c/o Ms. Susanne Alexander

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The National Spiritual Assembly was saddened to learn of the passing of dearly-loved Kay Muttart on 22 October, and wishes to convey heartfelt condolences to you. During her decades of distinguished service to the Faith and the community, there were few areas of the work of the Cause that did not benefit from her capable touch. In addition to her contributions at the local level, often as a member of the Local Spiritual Assembly, we mention with gratitude her years of service at the Bahá'í National Centre, including as secretary of the National Teaching Committee and also the National Bahá'í Schools Committee, as editor of “Bahá'í Canada”, and as a staff member of the Legal Department. As a co-worker, her ability to identify principles and to apply them, to create and maintain order around her and train and assist others to do so, were treasured capacities. In her service, rendered selflessly into her advanced years, she was an example of constancy, generosity and steadfastness. This is a soul to whom these words of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá surely apply:

“God has given us eyes, that we may look about us at the world, and lay hold of whatsoever will further civilization and the arts of living. He has given us ears, that we may hear and profit by the wisdom of scholars and philosophers and arise to promote and practice it. Senses and faculties have been bestowed upon us, to be devoted to the service of the general good; so that we, distinguished above all other forms of life for perceptiveness and reason, should labor at all times and along all lines, whether the occasion be great or small, ordinary or extraordinary, until all mankind are safely gathered into the impregnable stronghold of knowledge. We should continually be establishing new bases for human happiness and creating and promoting new instrumentalities toward this end. How excellent, how honorable is man if he arises to fulfil his responsibilities...”

Be assured of our ardent prayers for the progress of this newly-welcomed one in the divine realm, and for the comfort and consolation of your hearts.

With warm and loving greetings,



Karen McKye, Secretary

cc: National Spiritual Assembly (9)

25 October 2016 / 12 Knowledge 173

Dear Friends,

News of the sudden passing of our dear colleague and much loved member of the Baha'i community Kay Muttart was received with heavy hearts. A pillar of the Baha'i community in Richmond Hill, Kay will be dearly missed and remembered for her selfless devotion and loving service on the Local Spiritual and as its secretary for many long years.

A staunch and dedicated general serving Baha'u'llah's army of light, Kay embodied that rare combination of courage, love, humility, and proficiency, aptly deployed in service to her beloved Cause. Her clarity of thought, knowledge of - and adherence to - Baha'i principles and tireless, caring service greatly affected the functioning of this Assembly and touched the hearts of friends throughout the community.

As Kay's dear soul takes its flight to the Kingdom-on-High our thoughts and prayers are with her dear family and the friends, and in beseeching Baha'u'llah to honour her soul in His "exalted Paradise and retreats of nearness".

With Love and Sympathy,

**SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
BAHA'IS OF RICHMOND HILL**