

THE LEGACY

Like a glowing ray of sunshine
That defeats the very gloom,
So, Barbara was this to all of us
Whenever she walked in a room.
With her radiant, shining, spirit
Of kindness, of love, of care,
And the generosity of her being,
And her happy, golden hair.

The fierce glow of her intelligence,
The smile she shared with us all,
The way she kept her loved ones close,
With an early morning call,
The high standards she imposed on herself,
The sparkle of her wit,
The love she showed her husband,
Were among her special gifts.

She had an alter-ego,
Babette, she told me, was her name.
And as Barbara was calm and practical,
Babette was gloriously untamed!
Whenever she got in trouble,
Though it wasn't that often at all,
Barbara would confide in me,
It was always Babbette's fault.

A wife, a sister, an aunt,
A bridge partner, a vet, a friend,
A diver, a gardener, a mentor,
Her legacy will not end.
All these things were this woman;
The sum so much finer than its parts,
Because she was much more than this,

A resident of our hearts.
One cannot extend one's days,
We here, too, will pass,
But the legacy that she leaves us all
Is that life is ours to grasp.

The courage it took to challenge life
And to make it rich, and full,
And to live each day on her own terms—
A golden girl's golden rule.
Not everyone can understand
The clarity and force of her will,
But making her life worth living her life,
Was more important than living it still.

There won't be another like her;
She was really the only one.
A luminous, sparkling sunbeam
That shone brightly and was suddenly gone.

Barbara was our bright, warm sun,
A luminous, lovely light,
But at the end of every day,
The sunrise leads to night.
But though this darkness haunts us,
And we feel this loss and mourn,
As the morning light surely follows night,
Her legacy will still go on.

The stars that shine the brightest
Are the ones that touch us the most,
For they illuminate the path for us,
And forever shine a light in our souls.

Lorraine O'Donnell
Bridge Partner and Friend
February 3, 2024