

Bonnie and Her Tennis Friends

I moved down here from New York almost eight years ago, and Bonnie was one of the kindest, friendliest wonderful ladies I met. She made me feel like I maybe found a place and some nice ladies.

She always spoke so wonderfully of her husband Jay and her children and family. She truly is a prize.



I certainly remember her telling me very, very politely to be more aggressive. What she said I'll never forget; she said "You're too nice to your partner - You leave them too many balls to hit!!!"

I got what she was telling me. She had a way.

I'm also lucky to have in my hands her granola bar recipe. I LOVE THEM and she typed it out and gave me a copy, if anyone wants it.

She will truly be missed and I think you all were very lucky to have such a wonderful great lady in your life.

~Corey from New York . . . as Bonnie always said. My Lew too!!!!

Bonnie and Her Car

Our good friends the Benedicts, Rex and Michelle, had a Chrysler convertible. Bonnie rode in that car a few times with its top down and really loved it. I promised myself that one day I would get Bonnie her convertible.



Well, I did get Bonnie the convertible. I had it delivered to my work and, as a surprise, drove it home for Bonnie. I stopped by Steve and Sandra's house and picked up the grandkids and drove them towards our home.

When we got close to the house I stopped the car, put down the top, let the grandkids sit on top of the backseat, and called Bonnie to the on the phone telling her I needed her to come to the front of the house.

It was a wonderful surprise; she cried with joy. Over the years Bonnie took care of that car. She washed and vacuumed it and kept it mostly in the garage when it is not being used. That car, though 13 years old, is close to being in mint condition. She loved riding in it, especially with the top down. One of our family traditions over the years is to ride through Barrington Oaks with the top down all bundled in coats and wearing Santa Claus hats as we enjoyed the Christmas lights of that community. ~Jay

Bonnie and Cruisin'

Bonnie loved cruises. Her husband didn't always feel that way. In fact he declared that cruises were boring. So for his birthday in 1994, unknown to Jay, Bonnie set up and paid for a cruise out of Miami.

She arranged for her mother to come to Fort Eustis, Virginia, to stay with the children, and Bonnie and Jay flew off for their first cruise.

Between then and last October there would be 16 more - 8 of those with the family. Bonnie loved family cruises because her whole clan would be with her from the time they embarked until they disembarked.

We did many, many things together and had many great times aboard the various ships we sailed.



Bonnie Loved Perry's

Perry's Ocean Edge Resort in Daytona Beach is a family tradition going back many years. Although we would go to Perry's at various times during the year, we most often went the day after Christmas for about five days.



One of the things that makes Perry's attractive is its large atrium. Inside it is a nicely heated and large indoor pool. There is also a very large indoor spa. In December you can do these things: play on the beach, walk in the surf, play shuffleboard, and play miniature golf. You can also visit the honky-tonk pier area for fun. But rain or shine, hot or cold, you can swim in their large heated indoor pool.

Also nice about Perry's is that each morning it served complementary coffee juice and donuts until 10 a.m. That is always the motivation to get up and moving. Another good thing is that almost every room had a complete kitchen, and there is a Winn-Dixie store right across the street so we can prepare many of our meals if that is what we wanted.

We have many good memories of sitting around the pool at nine or 10 o'clock at night watching the kids swim and have fun.

Bonnie Loved Christmas

Bonnie loved many things, and she especially loved the Christmas season. If it were up to her, the Christmas season would have begun sometime in late September and end sometime in mid-March.

Even with this expanded happy season, this did not limit Bonnie in anytime-buying of Christmas presents for the children and grandchildren. She stored gifts under beds and in the back of closets. We often find them well after the Christmas season had passed.

She loved to decorate, both inside and outside the house. In our attic, we have no less than 35 boxes of Christmas decorations, and the engineer in me wonders when, not if, we will have a structural failure in the house.

She spent the days leading up to Christmas buying and wrapping presents, all the time wondering aloud if she had bought enough for each member of the family.



A Christmas Day tradition is her sweet rolls, they were excellent. Other Christmas traditions involved going to the Bell Shoals cantata, visiting Barrington Oaks in her convertible, and taking the family to some of the local churches that conducted pageants.

Bonnie's Feeds Jay Lima Beans

One night in the year 1983, at which point we had been married 16 years, I arrived home late from work. Bonnie had saved dinner for me and set it out on the table. Bonnie had already fed the kids and probably put them to bed. She was tidying up in the kitchen as I sat at the dining table. She checked on me and saw my plate and asked, "Would you like some more lima beans?"



I must not have been feeling very well because I said something that I immediately regretted. Here Bonnie had waited up and saved my dinner and I made a bad comment. I said, "No, actually I don't even like lima beans."

Rather than being offended, Bonnie is surprised. She said, "Your mother said you loved lima beans, that's why I have served them at least once a week for every year of our marriage." And she continued, "and you ate them."

I said, "I ate them because you served them."

We never had lima beans again for the rest of our married life.

Bonnie Puts Gas in the Car – Not.

Bonnie could do many, many things. She was very talented as you will note as you read through these various stories and tributes. Only two things that she could not do one was “directions” and the keeping gas in her Chrysler.

But, of course, the gas things was not really a problem. For when the tank was below empty it was always easier just to go to the gas cans I had in the garage for my lawn mower and fill up from there.

And even after she emptied my gas cans, I would often get notified at night that she may need my car tomorrow because, “There's not enough gas in my car to make it to the gas station.”



Bonnie's Cooking

Just for the record, Bonnie was an excellent cook. Not only that, she loved to do so.

While we were at the point in our lives where we can have gone out for dinner three or four nights a week, we didn't. For almost every night of the week Bonnie prepared a wonderful meal. She said she loved to do so.

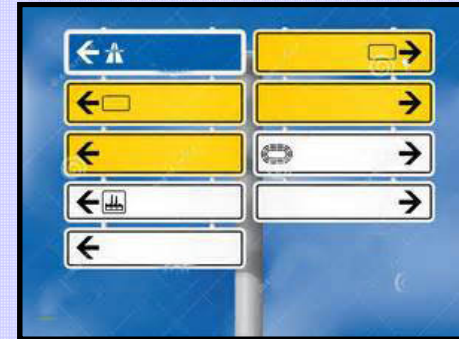


And she also loved to cook for others, and did so at every chance. Bonnie had some special recipes. One that comes to mind is white chicken chili. Another is her shrimp linguine that she would take to some of her tennis banquets. She also made a wonderful chicken sopa (that son-in-law Steve called "chicken on the sofa") and some great tasting enchiladas.

Bonnie's Way with Directions

Bonnie is directionally challenged. We can be staying in a hotel for four days, and on day four when she left her room, there was a 50-50 chance on whether not she would turn in the right direction for the elevators.

And maps and that distances meant little. If she asked how to go someplace you couldn't say to, "As you're driving along Brandon Boulevard turn north on Miller Road" because she truly had no idea which direction is north.



Sometimes, when I was on the way back from something like racquetball, and driving toward the house, I would call Bonnie. Many times she would ask me, "Where are you?" I would tell her, and then she would say, "Well would you mind picking up such-and-such for Sandra and it's located at such-and-such store." Bonnie never did quite understand that more often than not, the place where I is located and the store she is sending me to were not even in the same ZIP Code.

But, regardless, I picked up the items. Happy wife, happy life.

~ Jay

Memories of Bonnie

No matter what the problem Bonnie always wanted to help. She would go home and research and bring you a book or a Chinese herb or something that is suppose to help. You felt she genuinely cared! I will miss her laugh especially in Zumba class when we couldn't figure out the moves. A very special friend who will be dearly missed!

~Darlene Mercer

