

From: **JANE MORTON GALETTO** forrivers@comcast.net
Subject: Barbara Ray, A Living Lesson
Date: March 6, 2019 at 9:30 AM
To: forrivers@comcast.net



Barbara Ray
1938-2019



Barbara Ray taking in nature on the NJ- DE Bayshore with her friend Meredith's dog

A Living Lesson

Dear Peter,

The day I met Barbara was memorable, not just for me but for all of those who were present. It was June 5, 2010 and Barbara was game. She had mobility issues and her body was frail, but her mind and will were sharp as a tack. Later I learned that her academic background was equally stellar. CU member Walt Birbeck, a certified American Canoe Club trainer, was kind enough to offer kayak lessons at Union Lake on that sunny June day. Barbara struggled on land but in the kayak she found new freedom – mobility. Honestly I don't think there was a dry eye on the beach that afternoon as we all slowly recognized Barbara's achievement. Her pain from unsuccessful back surgery seemed to be forgotten and a huge smile came across her face as a tear of joy rolled down her cheek. At times like these I see all members fill up with pride as our collective paths merge and support each other.

Then on a later occasion Barbara joined us on a paddle, and two old friends were reconnected: Meredith Koenig and Barbara. "Is that you, Barbara Ray?," and "Yes; Meredith?" They were two Girl Scouts, two former high school pals, and they stayed reconnected to the last. In fact Meredith was aware that Barbara's condition was failing the past few years and was making regular visits. Barbara was still hopeful that she'd pull through, and she told Meredith as recently as a few weeks ago that she wanted to start attending CU meetings again. She was always learning and enjoyed the informative presentations.

Barbara belonged to other conservation groups and actively and generously supported our causes. She had a profound interest in nature, and Girl Scouts was her introduction. In fact Meredith told me that her mother was a leader and she spent time at the family homestead on Park Ave. where they learned about vegetable gardening and planting.

Meredith described Barbara as a very private person and teased her that she was a "garden hermit." She was modest about her advanced degrees and academic success, even though these were pioneering in her day. She continued to work in higher education in later years in spite of her physical struggles.

Barbara was very generous to CU and I regret not being able to tell more stories about her achievements and what I suspect were many adventures. But I will tell you this: we all learned a lot about determination from Barbara and she touched our lives that day in June when she refused to acquiesce to pain. And any other time we crossed paths Barbara was a living lesson in fortitude. Thank you, Barbara, for your example.

Sincerely,

Jane Morton Galetto
Board President



Barbara ready to paddle off

Obituary

Barbara M. Ray
1938-2019

Woodbury - Barbara Margaret Ray was born in 1938 in Woodbury, NJ to the late Margaret & Watson Dean. She was raised in Vineland, NJ and after many years returned to Vineland to make her life here.

Barbara was an honors graduate of Vineland High School. She went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Gettysburg College and her advanced degrees at Purdue University.

Barbara worked tirelessly to further and fulfill the needs of literally hundreds of students, especially those with special needs. After her return to South Jersey she worked with several schools, Holly Shores Girl Scout Council, and for many years the Cumberland County College. Barbara was an avid lover of animals and supported their causes tirelessly.

Barbara is survived by her sister Susan Feder, cousins; Malcolm, Mary and Kathleen as well as many faithful friends.

A memorial service will follow at a later date. For those who wish, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

To e-mail condolences & or tributes, please visit www.pancoastfuneralhome.com.

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Barbara taking a kayak lesson from Walt as mentioned above

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www.CUMauriceRiver.org

CONTACT US

CU MAURICE RIVER OFFICE
PO Box 474
Millville, NJ 08332

CitizensUnited@CUMauriceRiver.org
(856) 300-5331

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Jane Morton Galetto
President
ForRivers@comcast.net

Karla Rossini
Program Manager
Karla.Rossini@CUMauriceRiver.org

Doreen Homan
Membership, Events and Office Manager
Doreen.Homan@CUMauriceRiver.org

Meghan Thompson
Assistant Office Manager
Meghan.Thompson@CUMauriceRiver.org

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