

In Memorium: Rindy Collister – GMLC Founding Officer

“Rindy knew exactly what she wanted and was a bit stubborn at times,” said her daughter Becky, “but she was full of love, wanting to reach out and be there for others, to help them however they needed. She was gracious. That’s how she got her nickname, Gracie. When Mom had a cause, or believed strongly in something, there was nothing that was going to stop her from helping make that happen.”

Rindy’s parents originally lived in South Euclid on Sheridan Road by Mayfield Country Club. Rindy was born in 1939, attended South Euclid schools, went to Hathaway Brown and then to Sweetbriar and Skidmore majoring in American Studies. She was involved in committees at Hawken School and Hathaway Brown, the Gates Mills Players, was President of Gates Mills Garden Club. She served on the board of the Central School of Practical Nursing. She also loved tennis, needlepoint and her family.

In about 1950 her parents moved to Battles Road in Gates Mills “which she initially hated because all of her friends and dates had to drive so far to see her” Dan said. “Plus, her father was not particularly friendly to her dates, so he would lean out the top window and order them away.” She ended up happily living in the village for the rest of her life.

Years later, Dan had purchased a house down the street from them. A mutual friend, Pete Adams, who grew up with Rindy and worked with Dan at National City Bank, introduced them. “And it was ‘Don’t Hold the Horses’ after that!”, Dan said.

“When Rindy first came to meet me, she brought the children in this clapped-out old Ford Station wagon. She opened the doors and out these children kept coming like circus clowns. And I said, ‘Rindy, what are you going to do with all these children? ‘I’m going to raise them myself.’ she said. “What moxie! I loved children and wished to have more. I was all in, I nearly proposed on the spot!”, Dan mused.

Dan and Rindy married in 1971 and bought the Krill house, an old century home on Deerfield Road, “right out the back door of the Hunt Club stables.” They moved in with Dan’s son Peter and Rindy’s four children Lucy, Becky, John and David. All two years apart. “We lived there for 20 years and sold it for five times what we bought it for.” Dan said. It enabled them to purchase an old farm house on Rogers Road in 1991.

The Collisters placed a conservation easement on the property before selling it to Rindy’s distant cousin David Van Curen in 2011. It is a gorgeous piece of property bordered by the river, with a couple ponds, a lower field and large hills beyond. In 2005, Rindy inherited her mother’s house on Fox Hill Drive and they lived there until 2023. The Village and GMLC lost a great champion at the end of 2023, but we will cherish Rindy’s heart, enthusiasm and contributions forever.