



IN LOVING MEMORY
ROSE BRONDZ SMITH

JANUARY 13, 1927 TO DECEMBER 29, 2022

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ROSE SMITH
FEBRUARY 4, 2023

Order of Events

Introduction by Matt Aspin, Minister

Choir and friends will sing "Come Read a Book With Me"

Nevenah Smith will share memories

"Wild Mountain Thyme" accompanied by Dan Proud

Guests are invited to share their memories

"The Rolling Hills of the Border" accompanied by Dan Proud

Final remarks from Matt Aspin

Food and conversation

We are here to celebrate the life of this wonderful, kind, loving woman who touched all our lives so profoundly. Please share your memories and stories, laugh, sing, eat, maybe shed a tear or two, but above all let us remember her as someone who made friends everywhere she went and extend the hand of friendship to those we meet.



Come Read a Book With Me

Sung to the tune of #108 in Singing the Living Tradition

Come read a book with me
Come read a book with me
Come read a book with me
That I might know your mind.

And I'll bring you hope, when hope is hard to find
And I'll bring a book of love
And a rose in the winter time,

Come read a poem to me
Come read a poem to me
Come read a poem to me
That I might know your mind.

And I'll bring you hope, when hope is hard to find
And I'll bring a book of poems
And a rose in the winter time.

Come share a quote with me
Come share a quote with me
Come share a quote with me
That I might know your mind.

And I'll bring you hope, when hope is hard to find
And I'll bring lots of quotes
And a rose in the winter time.

Wild Mountain Thyme

By Robert Tannahill

O the summer time has come
And the trees are sweetly bloomin'
The wild mountain thyme
Grows around the bloomin' heather

*Will ye go, lassie, go?
And we'll all go together
To pull wild mountain thyme
All around the bloomin' heather
Will ye go, lassie, go?*

I will build my love a bower
By yon cool crystal fountain
And 'round it I will pile
All the wild flowers o' the mountain

Chorus

If my true love she'll not come
Then I'll surely find another
To pull wild mountain mountain thyme
All around the bloomin' heather

Chorus

Will ye go, lassie, go?
And we'll all go together
To pull wild mountain thyme
All around the bloomin' heather
Will ye go, lassie, go?

The Rolling Hills of the Borders

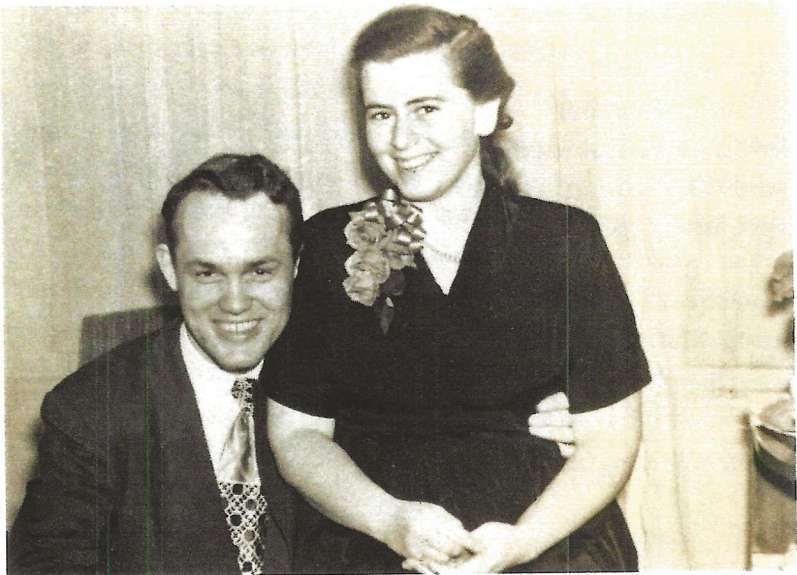
by Matt McGinn

When I die, bury me low
Where I can hear the bonny Tweed flow,
A sweeter place I never will know,
Than the rolling hills o' the Borders.

I've travelled far and wandered wide,
I've seen the Hudson and the Clyde,
I've wondered by Loch Lomond side,
But I dearly love the Borders.

Oft do I remember the day
When wi' my love I strolled by the Tay,
But all this beauty fades away,
Among the hills o' the Borders.

There's a certain peace of mind
Bonnie lassies there you will find
Men so strong and men so kind,
Among the hills o' the Borders.



Rose Brondz Smith
A life of love and friendship

Rose was born in Somerville, NJ on January 13, 1927 to Rose (Wolinetz) Brondz and Gershen Brondz. Her mother tragically died in childbirth and Gershen moved from his small farm back to the Bronx where his mother could help care for his newborn daughter. He eventually married her mother's sister, Sarah, and had a daughter, Mary Ann, with her. They lived in an apartment in the shadow of Yankee Stadium, close to the elevated subway tracks. The roar of the crowds and the noise from the trains punctuated their conversations and evenings listening to the radio.

She loved nature, and spent her free time out as often as possible, walking in Van Cortland Park or across the George Washington Bridge. She also loved to walk on the beach at Coney Island. When she wasn't out in nature, she was reading. Her favorite author was Willa Cather. She also loved Beatrix Potter.

Her aunts, Mania and Luba, took her frequently to cultural outings in the city, going to plays and musicals, and days at the museums. She was often uncomfortable, as she had to be on her best behavior, but remembered the events with pleasure.

After high school, she worked for a brief time in the war office as a pin-up girl (not what you think!) pinning slips of paper with troop movements on a large map. When the war ended, she packed a steamer trunk and headed off cross-country by train to attend college at Berkeley, CA. She wanted to get as far away from New York as possible.

In Berkeley, she majored in Zoology. She participated fully in campus life, adopting a small dog named Spotty, and finding opportunities from the Co-op board, including becoming part of Malvina Reynold's music circle. (Malvina wrote the popular song "Little Boxes".) The woman who ran the employment office liked Rose, and she was given plum assignments, including babysitting the children of Robert Oppenheimer. She maintained friendships with them for many years.

She met her future husband, Galen, in about 1948 through their mutual friend Haven Hegarty. Their lovely wedding on September 9, 1950, was held outdoors on a tiny terrace at the Hegarty home at Muir Beach in Marin County, with a magnificent view of the Pacific Ocean and with a small group of friends and relatives. They chose Reverend Harry Meserve of the San Francisco

Unitarian Church to marry them, which began their long connection with Unitarian fellowships and churches in Iowa and Wisconsin. She and Galen lived in Corte Madera in a basement apartment and enjoyed the life there very much. One of their pleasures was folk dancing in San Francisco. Then Galen was transferred to the Arctic AeroMedical Laboratory at Ladd Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Alaska. They bought a home-made house trailer in California and in Nov. and Dec. 1952 pulled it to Alaska with their 1946 Ford one-ton panel truck via the Alcan Highway. On the unpaved Alcan the trailer axle broke twice and had to be repaired in machine shops in Dawson Creek, B.C. and Whitehorse, Y.T. They were lucky to make it to Fairbanks at all.

They lived in the house trailer until their first child Peter was born on 27 Jan 1954 (temperature that night -50F), when they moved to a little rental house in College near the University. Rose made many friends in the little community of Dogpatch, grew giant vegetables, and had an outdoor box as a freezer in the winter. They had to padlock it to prevent the neighborhood boys from stealing the ice cream.

In late summer 1955 they flew to California, with a short stop in Juneau, where Galen enrolled in U.C.-Berkeley as a Ph.D. candidate in botany. They bought a house near the Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley with their \$1,000 savings as a down payment and rented out the upper floor to pay the mortgage. Galen was employed by the University part time as herbarium botanist and a teaching assistant. Son Damon was born in Oakland, California on 13 August 1956.

In 1960, Galen received a job offer from the Iowa State University in Ames. The family lived in a rental house on a farm north of Ames until early spring 1961. Daughter Nevenah was born during an ice storm in Ames on 14 February 1961. Then by auction they bought a 7-acre "acreage" which was being split off of a non-viable 80-acre farm farther north of Ames and lived there until 1965. They enjoyed the country life very much. They grew an enormous vegetable garden and bought 2 Welsh ponies for the children. After an unplanned midnight tryst their pony Sally Brown bore a pure white filly fathered by a neighbor's beautiful palomino stallion. They had lots of pets including ornamental ducks and chickens given to them by Dr. Willard Hollander, who conducted research on them. In their lovely barn they housed neighbors' hay, a big, mean stallion, and an equally big, mean bull. Peter and Damon attended grade school in the little village of Gilbert just north of Ames.

Rose worked with Galen on a variety of conservation efforts. They spent

summers at the University of Montana field station at Flathead Lake, and at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory at West Lake Okoboji.

Galen was denied tenure at Iowa State University, perhaps in part of due to his conservation activities, and finding another job was not easy. In 1965 he was hired as Associate Professor of biology at Wisconsin State University-Whitewater, soon to become the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Whitewater's proximity to Madison allowed Rose to finally get her Master's degree in Library Science. She had a love of children's literature and storytelling and dearly wished to become a children's librarian. But the job climate when she graduated was bad and she couldn't find a job in the schools. She eventually worked as the head librarian at Milton College until she was fired along with 12 others in a scandal that would eventually bring down the entire school.

They first bought a small house on Whiton Street in Whitewater, then in 1967 bought the historic 1856 Milwaukee cream brick Italianate Villa style Smith-Allen house on Center Street a few blocks from the city center. Rose had fallen in love with the house from the moment she saw it and was determined to live there one day. When she saw it was for sale, she got her wish. They lived there for 33 years, working hard to repair and maintain the house while raising their children. She filled the house with love and art and made sure her children appreciated books, art, and learning.

During this period she and Galen traveled in 1972 to Czechoslovakia (South Bohemia) and then to Poland, where he participated in an International Biological Program wetlands seminar. Their biggest adventure was in the summer of 1975 when Rose, Nevenah, and Galen went to Leningrad, where he attended the International Botanical Congress. They traveled from Amsterdam to the U.K., through Norway, Sweden, and Finland, and finally on the night train to Leningrad. From there a field trip to Batumi and environs in Georgia near the Black Sea, then to Moscow for a few days, and by rail from Kiev to Budapest and up the Danube by hydrofoil to Vienna. Trains took them the rest of the way through Switzerland (stops in Geneva and Bern) and France (at night) back to Amsterdam. In 1985 they again traveled to South Bohemia in (Czechoslovakia).

In 1976 to 1979 they moved to Madison where Rose could have a job and Nevenah could attend City School, an alternative high school. She worked for the UW Extension as a reference librarian until she lost her job in a campus wide downsizing. From there she found work with the Department of Natural Resources as a reference librarian until her retirement.

They rented out their Whitewater home and rented a house in the Monroe Street neighborhood in Madison for a year, then purchased a house on DuRose Terrace. On moving back to Whitewater they found renters for their Madison house, to which they were eventually to return.

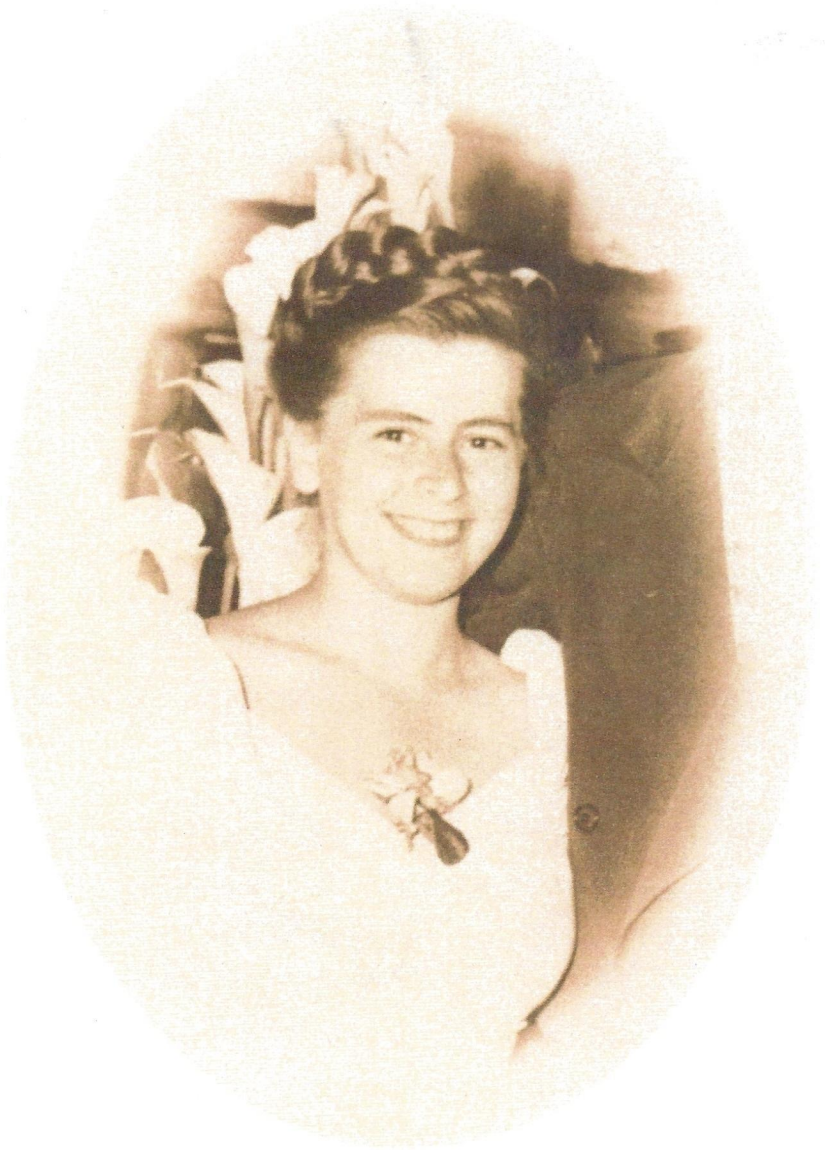
In 1987-1988 Galen was Exchange Lecturer at University College North Wales (autumn term) and in the midlands of England at Coventry Polytechnic Institute (spring term). They exchanged homes and cars with his exchange partners and their families. Rose was a lifelong Anglophile and was completely in her element, despite her failure to learn Welsh in a semester! They had a fantastic experience, ending with a wonderful summer of mostly traveling in Scotland with their son Damon.

In July 1991 Galen retired. After retirement they took many trips throughout the U.S. and Canada, including an epic road trip across the country and to Alaska by ferry in a 1994 Prius.

During 1991-2000, Rose and Galen remained in their Whitewater house, in which they held annual "farewell Christmas parties" for the Unitarian Fellowship. On 1 November 2000, they sold their home to a young couple who loved it, and moved back to their DuRose Terrace house in Madison, where they were greeted with a welcome home party given by old friends and neighbors from the 1970's. They were happy to be back among many old friends in the great cultural and academic center of Madison, including the Prairie Unitarian-Universalist Society, and in a smaller house that was much easier to cope with than the big house in Whitewater. Rose was offered the position of greeter at Prairie, a job for which she was eminently suited. She enjoyed meeting and socializing with people and reading stories to the children at story time. She also began a custom of reading to the large group of children in her neighborhood.

In 2013, Nevenah moved in with them to care for Rose after hip replacement surgery and provide continuing care for the rest of their lives. When Galen died in 2015, Rose began to shut down a bit. She eventually stopped going to Prairie and her book group, though she still maintained her friendships. The last several years were marked by a decline into dementia and she spent her last month at Agrace Hospice. Her end was peaceful, with Nevenah in attendance. She kept her essential sweetness throughout, and she was a favorite of all the staff who cared for her. When Nevenah would recount stories of her life to her, her eyes would get big and she would say "I did that?"

Yes, Rose, you did all that, and more.



Rose at Galen's graduation ball at
the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley