



## Lydia Dyson

December 25, 1931 - October 3, 2021

Lydia (Kushnereit) Dyson, 89, of West Hartford, passed away Sunday (October 3, 2021) in the comfort of her home, surrounded by her family after fighting a courageous battle with Parkinson's. She was predeceased by her husband Sturman F. Dyson, Jr. Born on December 25, 1931 in Montreal, Canada, Lydia was a New Britain resident for 50 years, moving to West Hartford 10 years ago. A graduate of Montreal High School for Girls, she attended McGill University. Lydia was the director of UConn Health Center Family Planning and the New Britain General Hospital Family Planning Clinic from 1975 through 2000, and fought passionately for women's reproductive rights.

Lydia was ahead of her time, bringing the culture and sophistication she found as a young person in Montreal to her married life in New Britain, Connecticut. She quickly became a member of the New Britain Junior League, New Britain Garden Club, South Congregational Church, as well as a member and longtime volunteer at the New Britain Museum of American Art. Until her final days, Lydia's style and grace were always apparent.

Lydia was a lifelong lover of art, history and language. She was fluent in French and German, was schooled in Latin, and was always ready to discuss a new book in depth. Lydia enjoyed spending time outdoors, whether she was working in her garden, playing tennis, or walking the New Britain reservoir. She was also an avid duplicate bridge player, accompanied by her teammate and long time friend, Mary Krenn.

When Lydia's only grandson was born, she hastily rejected the title of "grandmother" or "granny", adopting "Lydie", the name for which she would become widely known by family and friends. To these folks, Lydie was forever an all-knowing counselor and guide, offering answers and advice on any of life's many challenges. When she wasn't helping others, she'd often tell personal stories, using her own misadventures as comedic gold, filling any room with fits of laughter.

Surviving are two loving daughters, Wendy Kirkland and husband John Howard of Bloomfield, Robin Ann Dyson of New York City; and a devoted grandson, Colin Kirkland of Somerville, MA. Lydia also leaves a sister-in-law, Ann Grimm of Apopka, FL; a beloved former son-in-law, Bruce Kirkland of Branford; and her loving and cherished caregiver over the past seven years, Beverly Moffatt of East Hartford. We also appreciate the additional support and kindness of her aide Deon Comer and the Hartford Healthcare Hospice team. Lydia was predeceased by a sister, Ella Shulemson. She also leaves several nieces and nephews.

A celebration of Lydia's life will be held at a later date. There are no calling hours. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation or to Planned Parenthood. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain, is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy with Lydia's family at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear this sad news. Lydia (or Mrs. Dyson, as I called her when I was growing up) was one of my mother's best friends. My mother once said that when she first met Lydia she thought she was the most beautiful woman she'd ever seen. When I think of Lydia, I immediately hear her wonderful laugh. How she loved a good joke or a spicy story! She was a lovely, caring human being and a dear, loyal friend to my mother (for that I shall always be grateful). I send my love to Robin, Wendy, Colin (whom she adored), and the rest of the family.  
Jane Hawkes

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**Jane Hawkea** - October 13, 2021 at 10:52 AM

LK

“ I have wonderful memories of being in the Dyson house when Wendy and I were in high school together. "Mrs Dyson"...Lydia was one of those moms who loved having conversations and laughs with the goofy teenagers standing in her kitchen. She took the time to get to know you. I could tell she adored her daughter and was curiously amused (with a touch of worry?) at Wendy's antics. She was a smiling, cheerful, intelligent, wise and radiant woman. And I know her family holds her in their hearts as the dearest friend. My deepest sympathy to the family.  
Louise Wahlberg Kelly "Weasel"

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**Louise Kelly** - October 11, 2021 at 05:36 PM

TA

“ I had a pleasure of celebrating a few holidays with Lidia and family in CT and I always enjoyed our deep conversations about very diverse topics. She was a great story teller and a wonderful listener. RIP dear Lidia,  
with love,  
T.



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**Tatyana** - October 10, 2021 at 10:05 AM

NN

“ Robin and Wendy (and family),  
Your mom was a wonderful neighbor and friend to our family. I am so very sorry for your loss. My sincere condolences.

*Norma (Granski) Noyes*

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**Norma Noyes** - October 10, 2021 at 08:58 AM

JG

“ The world won't be the same without our Aunt Lydia. We love you and miss you.



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**Jonathan Grimm** - October 10, 2021 at 07:43 AM

GL

“ *Condolences. I truly will be thankful for all the great memories that I will savour for the rest of my days.* ”



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**Gerald Lozoff** - October 09, 2021 at 11:03 AM