

Bonita (Bonnie) Jackson

JACKSON, Bonita (Bonnie) Cecile (nee Gilchrist) gently left us on the 13th of December 2024 at age 97. The family extends heartfelt thanks to Glenwarren Lodge staff who cared for Mom with loving kindness, attention, and professionalism. Jeanette was particularly kind and helpful through the years.

Predeceased by father Russell Gilchrist, mother Aileen (Spring) Gilchrist, sister Dorothy Ruth Doucet, and sons-in-law Peter Gann and Chuck Buchholz, Bonnie was our family's last member of her generation, leaving behind four daughters; Analie Buchholz, Charlotte Gann (Bob Gaba), Louise Kadar (Iggy Kadar), Victoria Jackson (Charles Traynor), and niece Pauline Doucet. Bonnie was blessed with four grandchildren, eight step-grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Bonnie was born at Bell City near Long Beach, California on the 19th of August 1927 and the family soon returned to BC where Bonnie grew up in West Vancouver and then Victoria, where her pioneer family had established their businesses in 1853. Bonnie's great-grandfather, Captain William Spring, owned schooners for, among other things, transporting goods up the Fraser River during the gold rush, where he met his future wife Ciamia (Ski-a-peset) Hya, a Sto:lo woman educated and named by nuns as Susanne.

Bonnie was a bright student but contracted polio as a young woman, which kept her home for a time. Prompted to try a then-outlandish swimming and diet treatment, Bonnie made a full recovery (resulting in her performing into her 80s with Hollytree Morris dancing). During this early challenge, Bonnie occupied herself with drawing and creating her doll's fashions. At just 17, she studied fashion design in Toronto, married in Vancouver, and in 1967 opened Bastion Boutique, Victoria's only haute couture fashion house then. With beloved employees Donna Cook (Politano) and Myra Cavell Thompson, her

couturier shop operated until 1975, where much mirth could be heard among the three.

Bonnie was active at home in the 1960s with the then-renowned Marigold Playground Group raising funds for the community's children to experience hands-on activities, setting the model for all of Victoria's Summer Parks Programs for future years. Another design endeavour was creating Coast Salish regalia for potlatch performances held at Victoria's Thunderbird House.

In later years, Bonnie worked with BC's Heritage Branch, creating cultural costuming for employees at BC historic sites.

Bonnie loved to travel. From Haida Gwaii to Europe, Africa, Hawaii, and the Caribbean, she experienced a full life.

A celebration of life will be held in summer 2025 in Victoria. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a charity of one's choosing. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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