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# REMEMBERING FREDA REID

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# Alfreda Reid Memories Shared by Others

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## **Alfreda Reid Memories Shared by Others**

### **John Reid**

(son)

#### **Best Memories**

Remember the best shortbread - it was a daily treat

Christmas traditions - A Christmas Carol (or 3)

The adventures and travel - suitcase packed and at the ready

The love for family - near and far

Short and long trips away - loved Harrison Hot Springs

Enjoys the scenic route - and to sing along the way

Remember the best hugs - always given freely

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### **Robyn Newton**

(proxy daughter)

Memories of Alfreda

When I would call her on the phone I was always greeted with a warm and jolly 'Hello, the Reids'.

Her big warm hugs, being loving and kind.

Her love for the colour purple :)

Hearing her travel stories and from the years they lived in Australia.

When I first met her and Jack for a cuppa in late 2004, which turned into asking me if I wanted to live with them while I was in Canada on a working holiday visa. I was welcomed into their home and also family, with Alfreda calling me her 'proxy daughter', and I felt quite special that she would call me that. Alfreda and Jack would take me out on trips to see the sights of Vancouver and also Vancouver island.

I have so many memories of Alfreda from the months that I lived with her and Jack to the visits I had on following trips to Canada over the years. I (and my Aussie family) will miss her dearly.

## **Alfreda Reid** **Memories Shared by Others**

### **Wylla and Gordon Churches**

(friends and fellow teacher)

On the first Sunday of September 1961 Wylla met Freda in Gordon United Church in Langford. They became travelling companions to the University of Victoria. Later they became roommates while teaching in Cranbrook. During their stay in Cranbrook they made a few mutual friends and enjoyed many local activities, especially snowmobiling. Freda loved the speed and the occasional snowbank we would get stuck in. We had a few very memorable evenings drinking hot chocolate sitting around an open fire in the middle of the wilderness.

Freda and Wylla's friendship grew and when they both returned to the coast their common interest in teaching gave them lots to talk about. Freda taught in an inner school in Vancouver and Wylla taught in a similar setting in Victoria. Many ideas and strategies were shared between them.

Freda's love of teaching and her desire for adventure were fulfilled when she applied to the teacher exchange programme and was accepted. These exchanges Freda loved; she made many new friends and taught many children and made a huge difference in many young lives. It was from her many experiences and knowledge of the aboriginal people of Australia and of B.C. that she taught many workshops to assist others.

I introduced Freda to Jack Reid as a square dance partner which resulted in the two of them do-see-doeing to the altar.

Soon after Wylla and I followed as did Margaret and Robin. The die was cast and we all became family.

Wylla & Freda always had their pre marriage and teaching experiences to enjoy while Margaret and Freda became like sisters. With young families they lived through each other's ups and downs and spent many happy moments together.

As the years went by special occasions became larger and more important as friendships solidified and the families became intertwined and Love prevailed.

We have all been blessed to have had so many "Special" moments together and we are thankful that Freda & Jack shared their love with us.

We miss them and our Love continues to John, Brenda and their family.

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## **Alfreda Reid Memories Shared by Others**

### **Margie Roberts**

(sister-in-law)

Remembering Freda,

Hearing "Hello the Reids" would always make me smile  
She'd cheer me up as we talked for awhile.

Our rock and bright light quietly living the simple life  
always cheerful, encouraging, and devoted  
minister, teacher, mother and wife.

Hot tubbing no matter the weather  
In every suitcase a bathing suit and sweater.

From Salt Spring to Scottsdale to Myrtle Beach  
Happy as long as family were within her reach.

Pursuing history, geography, culture, and more  
Freda loved to travel, to learn and to explore.

From Drumheller to Vancouver to the island  
Shetland, Australia, Switzerland, and England  
It's hard to keep track but she always came back.

Teaching special needs, native art, and crafts  
Her enthusiasm enthralling the children in the class.

From hockey to a good murder mystery  
Yet the patience to needle a fine tapestry.

A cup of tea, milk first, and a visit while there  
Her prize winning short bread and biscuit to share.

From lace doilies and porcelain cup and saucer  
She enjoyed a good walk but preferred a chauffeur.

Ever the lady, the perfect hostess, never to shirk

## **Alfreda Reid** **Memories Shared by Others**

Dressed elegantly in argyle sweater and long skirt.

My 'Matron of Honour' and so like a sister  
I know in my heart I already miss her.

I smile as I think of Freda, looking down from above  
Having known her, I feel truly blessed, grateful and loved.

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### **Elizabeth Campbell**

(friend)

I first came to know Freda through my sister-in-law, Louise. Freda and Jack were very good friends to Louise. I was visiting from Ontario. Louise and I were invited to dinner at their home, which at the time was in Vancouver. We thoroughly enjoyed our evening together and I understood how special this couple was.

Many years later Sarah and I were invited to spend time with Freda and Jack at their new home on Vancouver Island. Sarah is my Niece, and by this time her Mom, Louise, had passed away. We were proudly shown the view of the ocean and their well tended garden. After the family lost Jack I continued to stay in touch with Freda, sometimes with a long distance phone call.

As I think back over the many years, the one thing I will always remember is when you walked into a room with Freda, there was her wonderful smile that spread sunshine throughout the space and just made you feel good. To know Freda was to be wrapped in her warmth and feel the glory in her smile and loving nature.

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### **Ena Meechan**

(first cousin)

I remember your mom with affection.

She was always cheerful & loved travel. She visited us here in England often & loved sorting out family connections. I have a cross stitch embroidery of the outline of Shetland she gave me on one of the visits.

The initials on it are hers & HCW.

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## **Alfreda Reid**

### **Memories Shared by Others**

#### **Jessica Harrison**

(grand niece)

- the way Aunt Dee Dee answered the phone with a delighted "Hello darling!" and everything in her voice said that somehow although she had been having a truly lovely day already, my phone call had made it absolutely perfect in every way
- the way she had a song for everything and could relate every sweet little folksong to someone we knew, making it feel like it was a song especially written for our family
- Diddle, Diddle, Dumpling, My Son John - to this day I can still picture her singing this for my kids, and reaching to pat John's foot where he sat beside her on the couch when she got to the line "One sock off, and one sock on"
- teaching us the song "she'll be coming round the mountain" when Laurie was coming back East for a visit- learning songs like "Kookaburra Sits in the Old Gum Tree Song" which none of my friends knew and teaching it to all of them (and to this day getting them stuck in my head)
- the way she commented on and remembered every single social media post I ever made about my kids, to the point that I noticed I was posting things just so that I could share them with her, because she always seemed so delighted with them
- the way she listened to my children's stories, no matter how silly or incomprehensible they may have been, and made them feel like the most important people in the world
- of course the way she would "seed" the beach with sea glass and pretty rocks and shells and instilled in my kids a life-long love affair with the ocean and the beach: they never get tired or frustrated, even now that she is not here anymore to "seed" the beach, because they remember the treasures they always found, and have no reason to doubt they will find something wondrous every time
- the knowledge she instilled in me of how important family is, and how blessed we are, and her generosity in ensuring that we could be together in the truly hard times. In times of great loss, she always reminded us that we still had each other and would be together again.
- the way she did not judge my sisters or Andrew or I, but was always supportive, always cheerful, always optimistic. Even now when I struggle with a hard choice or a desperately challenging situation, I can close my eyes and hear her say "Hello darling!" and feel comforted that there was someone who could always see the bright and beautiful in everything I did and who saw my mere presence or the sound of my voice as something wonderful and uplifting in the world, and I have courage again.

## **Alfreda Reid**

### **Memories Shared by Others**

#### **Margaret Reid**

(sister-in-law)

Memories of loving Freda;

Sister in law, friend, family .....Alfreda was so special in all our lives. Her joy when she found out she was going to have a baby ,her sadness when she could not have any more. Her joy and love for Jack and then John, her mum, and all her family. Her love of parties, family get-togethers, wearing her kilts, her purple outfits, her sweaters, her hats and jewellery for each outfit. Her love of everything Scottish. Her ease with making new friends and always having an open house, always varieties of cookies in tins on the counter. Her special star shortbread made over the Christmas holidays, a holiday season she loved especially the lights, colour and red cardinals. Her joy in baking, preserving, and making jam from fruit she and Jack grew.

We got a hot tub and Freda loved it, she could stay in longer than anyone, quiet in nature, relaxed but always smiling. She eventually got one herself.

Without Freda my recovery over two years with two knee replacements would not have been so good. She came and stayed, she managed my pain meds, went to every physio appointment, made sure I did my exercises two and three times a day, measuring the bend and being so delighted in the smallest improvements. She became very adept at the ice machine and most nights I would awaken and she would be on the couch, awaking when I did, helping me up and then we would sit side by side and watch the sunrise, quietly and peacefully. I confided a lot on those long nights, was never judged, was never told what to do but just listened to.

She loved the adventure of life, when John was still a toddler, they arrived at our house in Sidney as we were packing our VW to go on an overnight campout: small tent, sleeping bags, cooler, dog Chrystal and without hesitation they came with us, sleeping in their car, collapsible highchair for John, in the wilderness beside a creek and in morning being woken up to the loud horn of a logging truck creeping by us on the logging road. Staying on our mini farm during the summer so we could get away for a week or two, looking after goats, sheep, chickens, rabbits and ducks plus all the pets.

Spending a lot of Christmases with us in Sidney and on Salt Spring Island both at Jacks parents houses and at Robin and my house and enjoying all the busy times and excited children with great joy. Her hard sauce was a hit.



## **Alfreda Reid Memories Shared by Others**

But... it was her joy, her faith, her many blessings of just being alive, her love, her honesty and her belief in all good that made her so special to all who knew her and loved her and she will be missed forever.

With love from Margaret and Robin

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### **Ruth Miller**

(fellow teacher)

My fondest memories of Alfreda are the many laughs we shared and her beautiful singing voice. We often put our classes together for performances for Christmas Concerts and even one for Halloween. She taught the children all the songs. We had that marvelous trip together in 2003 when we went to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. She was great company and we enjoyed many walks around the tourist sites. She loved to walk along the many shores and we would dip our toes into many different oceans, seas etc.

She just had such a vast store of knowledge about many things. I really miss her.

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I really admired your mother. She was a wonderful woman. We taught together at Edith Cavell for 16 years and I have many happy memories of our good times.

She was very friendly and welcoming to me. I also noticed that she always did her best to make other new teachers feel at home. I remember that she came to my place for tea on Fridays after she taught school up until 2003.

Alfreda and I went to England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales the summer of 2003. We visited her aunt and cousin in Scotland for a few days. She was a wonderful travelling companion and we had a great time.

In 2004 I moved to Port Coquitlam so we did not stay in such close touch. She went on exchange to teach in Australia twice. The first time she went to Tasmania and the second time in Perth.

Alfreda was considered one of the finest teachers in Vancouver. The children in her class always learned from the best. Her and I often put our classes together for the Christmas Concert and we had so much fun.

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## **Alfreda Reid Memories Shared by Others**

### **Grace-Ida Bullock**

(niece)

Remembering Aunt Freda;

I am Alfreda Reid's oldest niece and cousin to John Reid. My name is Grace-Ida Bullock. My sister, Sylvia Schneider, and I have always known Alfreda as Aunt Freda. She was one of a kind, unique, because of her abundant kind nature, sincere love for family and people and her adventurous spirit. There was always another new adventure just around the next corner. Aunt Freda possessed a quiet love and deep respect for her God that was reflected in her living out life.

My most profound memory of her is the unfailing love she always extended to me. I knew that she was always there for me. That was one example of her quiet love and respect for God reaching out to me and others. She was like a big sister to me. I am forever grateful.

### **The Dance Performance**

Years ago when Aunt Freda was doing her teaching requirements as part of her completion for her teaching degree at an elementary school on Vancouver Island, she was being observed while teaching. As the story is told, it was a warm June day. The classroom windows were open to help provide relief from the day's heat. This was back when women teachers wore dresses/skirts and tops. While Aunt Freda was delivering the carefully prepared lesson, a bee entered the classroom through an open window. The bee landed on Aunt Freda's leg just above the hemline of her skirt. Oh, my! It is my understanding that Aunt Freda provided her observers with quite a dance performance. Aunt Freda managed to stay in control, as usual, and complete her observed lesson. That is my amazing Aunt Freda! This is also known as, The Bee Story, by family and friends.

### **Another New Dance**

During the summer when I was nine years old, my family made the very long trip by car from Michigan to Vancouver Island to visit my mother's family living there. It was an exhausting trip for our entire family. Upon arrival at the home of my great uncle, Tom Christie and his wife, we settled in while dinner was cooking on the kitchen stove. My grandmother, Nana, Grace Andrew, and my Aunt Freda were also living there at that time. Shortly before dinner, Aunt Freda and Nana rolled up the large rug on the hardwood living room floor. Then placing a Highland music album on the record player, they all began dancing. What an amazing and fun time! I shall never forget my family in Scottish dance on the living room floor. This is my heritage, my family, my precious memories.

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## **Alfreda Reid** **Memories Shared by Others**

### **Sylvia Schneider**

(niece)

My favorite Aunt comes to mind and the many years of warmest thoughts of love encircling all around me.

When I was four, I was spending the night with my girlfriend who lived next door. Aunt Freda was visiting at the time and I remember wearing plum pajamas. I was sent home in the middle of the night because we spooked ourselves silly. To this day I'm still friends with my oldest girlfriend who lives in Michigan. I remember sleeping with my aunt the remainder of the night in our hide away bed couch in our living room.

Our camping experiences were fun times. Yes, I remember camping with my family, Aunt Freda, Uncle Jack, my other two aunt and uncles from Michigan. All of us cramped in a 16 foot trailer. We all had such a good time which I'll remember for my lifetime.

All those visits to Arizona in the winter months. Aunt Freda spent almost every chance she could in my jacuzzi I had outside. I believe they call them hot tubs now. She thoroughly enjoyed those Sunday Home groups evening get togethers with our church group in Arizona along with our picnic experiences with our Sunday School class.

My mother always considered her sister, Alfreda, as her "little sister"! My mom loved her little sister and always said so.

All of our families have a special place in our hearts for our Aunt and we will all see each other again in Glory! I am sure of that!

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## **Alfreda Reid**

### **Memories Shared by Others**

#### **Erica Dhillon**

(second cousin)

My memories of Freda:

When I think of Freda, I think of a big smile, open arms and the words “Welcome, Welcome!” She always made me feel like I was family and special to her.

I remember well when Raj and I went to the PNE years back and I called Freda to ask if we could stay overnight with her. Though we hadn’t seen her in a few years, she did not hesitate at all and said they would love to see us. As always, she and the rest of the family made us feel so welcome and at home. It was a special experience which I treasure. Thank-you Freda!

It was a similarly pleasant experience when I asked if she would like to share hosting Cathy and family from England. Without hesitation, she enthusiastically said “Yes, that would be lovely”, and after that it was just so easy to coordinate it with her. She liked to make things easy for the other person.

In more recent years, any time I would drop by on my bike on my way to Sidney, it was the same experience of happiness at seeing each other. Being a quieter, more introverted person myself, it is a bit of a mystery to me how Freda was so outgoing, cheerful and exhibited her love of life so freely. Mystery or not, it was always a beautiful thing to witness.

I am grateful for the time we had in the last year together. Again, I always felt welcome and I was able to get to know Freda as thoughtful, insightful, curious and enthusiastic. I understood how she must have enriched the lives of every child she ever taught as she had a way of seeing into the minds of children as well as observing them carefully. I was especially impressed by how she did not just say she cared about family but acted to help them. She was a doer not just a sayer!

I am grateful for the time Freda and Mara had in this past year as the bond of the two cousins was one of shared memories and shared family. They so enjoyed getting to know each other more deeply and sharing life stories. Thank-you Freda for the love you showed to my Mom!

Freda symbolizes the joy of family to me. Her open heart, generosity and caring spirit is a beacon and a model. Freda, you will always be in my heart.

## **Alfreda Reid**

### **Memories Shared by Others**

#### **Sue Terry**

(fellow teacher)

She was a wonderful woman who gave out such love and friendship to everyone who she met.

I will always hold dear to my heart how your parents gave me such a wonderful experience when I came over to Canada for that first trip back in the W 1990's. My love for Canada has grown ever since.

I used to messenger Freda, and her me, with various bits of news. Of course the last time I saw you all was during the trip I made with Merle when we stayed for a few days in their beautiful home in Sydney overlooking the ocean.

I remember when I stayed at Brentwood Bay once we shared a room and talked long into the night about your Uncle's role he played in ending World War 2. What an amazing guy. I never knew if you ever met him as he seemed a bit older than your Mom.

She had a wonderful life and gave 1,000's of children a great start in life through her teaching.

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#### **Sally Freestun**

(friend)

Meeting your Mum was one of life's joys.

Though we only met the once, the time Mum, Janet and I had with your parents on Vancouver Island was so special and greatly treasured.

It was easy to see why travelling half way round the world to visit this particular friend was on Mum's must-do list.

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#### **Janet Freestun**

(friend)

Your Mum, and Dad, were really loved here.

The lovely memories we have of visiting with your Mum and Dad, and the wonderful day we had with your Mum at the Butchart Gardens. Mum used to talk often of her friends in Canada and dream of visiting. So glad we had the chance. ♥

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## **Alfreda Reid Memories Shared by Others**

### **Allison Harrison**

(niece)

#### **... Perfect Boxes and Dragonflies ...**

One of Freda's most pleasurable activities when teaching school was to park a mystery box in the classroom. Students were encouraged to look inside but not allowed to tell anyone, except her, what was in it. It was supposed to be a personal discovery of delight. Sometimes she placed a magnifying glass alongside the treasure. When all of the students informed her that they had seen the treasure it was time for her to replace the wonder.

Many years later, Freda continued to walk along a variety of beaches, some in different countries still finding and collecting many assorted treasures. Sand dollars, beautiful stones, coloured glass worn smooth by the ocean, and a wide variety of seashells and starfish. This time though, these treasures were boxed and sorted and saved for whenever children visited which was always a special occasion. She continued to walk almost 2 km every day along the seashore to visit her husband Jack when he resided at Resthaven, a care facility.

Before Freda left us a magnificent and huge dragonfly was delicately pinned to a Styrofoam tray on her dresser. She could not bear for it to be disposed of without it being properly admired. She had found it while walking. She was promised the dragonfly would be sent to all six of her great grandnieces and nephews. The most perfect box was easily found and the dragonfly was properly admired as the wonder that it was! Apparently, the daughter of grandniece Jessica (Sivan), has laid claim to the dragonfly. It's proudly displayed in her bedroom.

#### **... After Freda's Dad's Death ...**

It's very likely Freda's father, Alfred, purchased her 16th birthday gift, a birthstone ring when he was briefly reunited with his three sisters Vaila, Patricia, and Betty. They traveled from the Shetland Islands to visit Nova Scotia when Freda was 15.

Never before had he been known to pre-purchase a birthday gift!

You can imagine how surprised and delighted Freda was when she received her Dad's birthday gift, some seven months after he'd been killed. She always, ALWAYS wore this ring! She didn't even take it off to make shortbread, deciding to clean the ring after she had pressed out the shortbread.

## **Alfreda Reid**

### **Memories Shared by Others**

And so with this most treasured last gift she started a beautiful family tradition. Over the years each of her nieces and her grandnieces were gifted with their very own “sweet 16” birthday ring. Heather, Allison, Laurie, Grace Ida, Sylvia and well as grandnieces Christie, Heidi, Jessica, and Grace became grateful recipients of their very own birthstone rings for their 16th birthday. All of us with one sole exception due to a house break-in, still have and cherish our rings.

And so this tradition continues. For when Heidi’s daughter, Addie (Adelaide), a grand niece to Freda, turned 16 she too received her birthstone ring. While Freda and niece Allison were visiting Ontario, Freda supervised the selection of the ring which her two nieces, Laurie and Allison purchased. When Addie’s sister, Mia (Ameilia) turned 16 last year, her Aunt Laurie and Aunt Allison made sure she got her birthstone ring, too.

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### **Christine McClearn**

(first cousin)

I met Freda a few times over the years and we had many a-laugh. As you know, Freda was very good at keeping in touch with relatives. She and I shared the same birthday, July 12th. In later years, it was a great joy to have the phone conversations with her on July 12; I really missed the talk in 2021.

I remember well the night the telegram arrived at our house in Halifax announcing the sudden death of Uncle Alfred. Mum was hearing some of my homework when the doorbell rang, followed shortly by Dad asking her to come downstairs. That occasion made me aware that parents could weep.

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### **Sandy Matheson**

(fellow teacher)

She was a kind, generous, supportive, fun-loving person who was well-respected by many. We had a lot of fun over the years we taught together, and I always enjoyed our after-school chats and attempts to play the wee keyboard she kept in her storage cupboard (we were hopeless, to put it mildly!). She will be missed by all who knew her.

I have let some of the other teachers from Cavell School know, as they were also very fond of Alfreda, and held her in high-regard.

## **Alfreda Reid** **Memories Shared by Others**

### **Christie Wagner**

(grand niece)

Aunt Dee Dee saying 'you bet' with a mischievous look in her eye - ready for any adventure.

How cute she was when she wanted Uncle Jack to do something for her. She'd put her arms around his neck and say, 'Oh pleeeaaase Jackie' And how HIS eyes would twinkle!

Aunt Dee Dee also shared with my mom that recess in winter time for an elementary school teacher meant 20 coats, 20 scarves, and 40 mittens and 40 boots!

Trips to Harrison Hot Springs, a destination she enjoyed with her fellow teachers (e.g. write a few report cards - hot tub - write a few report cards - repeat...), her visitors, and family.

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### **Amelia Timmerman**

(great grand niece)

“Some people have book smarts and others, people smarts, but Aunt Dee Dee has both.”

- Aunt Dee Dee's great grand niece Mia who was 10 years old at the time