

*Elisabeth taught this hymn to Lyle  
when they were hiking in Brasil before they were married.*

In heavenly Love abiding, No change my heart shall fear; And safe is such confiding, For nothing changes here. The storm may roar without me, My heart may low be laid; But God is round about me, And can I be dismayed?	Wherever He may guide me, No want shall turn me back; My Shepherd is beside me, And nothing can I lack. His wisdom ever waketh, His sight is never dim; He knows the way He taketh, And I will walk with Him.
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Green pastures are before me,  
Which yet I have not seen;  
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,  
Where darkest clouds have been.  
My hope I cannot measure,  
My path in life is free;  
My Father has my treasure,  
And He will walk with me.

*Christian Science Hymnal, Hymn 148, Anna*

Donations to the Elisabeth Christina Salm Fund at the Ottawa Community Foundation will be used in a way consistent with her values. Please specify the fund name when making your donation online via [www.ocf-fco.ca](http://www.ocf-fco.ca) or when sending a cheque made payable to the Ottawa Community Foundation, to 301-75 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5E7.

**The Young and Salm families wish to thank:**

Janet Dudley for taking an immediate and unassailable stand in prayer for Elisabeth's inviolability. One big eternal hug from the families. • Christian Science nurse, Barb Waite, for her invaluable support of the family, especially at the hospital. • The Ottawa Civic Hospital for their compassionate and flexible care. • The Ottawa City Police for their professionalism and sensitivity towards Lyle and the rest of the families, and for their efficiency. • Ward Counsellor Tobi Nussbaum for practical input on how to embrace the City in healing, and for arranging free food. • Dorothy Milburn-Smith for project-managing the multiple demands of the week. • Lyle and Elisabeth's neighbour Elizabeth Gray-Smith for media strategy and execution. • Delia Coates and Paul Woodsworth for the programme and slideshow respectively. • Lyle and Elisabeth's friend, Eric Nickerson, for having introduced them and for having served as Lyle's Man Friday for this whole past week. • The Unitarian Church and their staff. • Jane Rocchio for catering both Elisabeth's and Lyle's wedding and this Celebration of Life • James Durie of Bespoke Audiovisual for donating their equipment and services. • All those who have generously provided food and flowers to the families as well those who offered their support in person. • All those who laid flowers, candles, and other expressions of support outside the Reading Room. • All of those who prayed both individually and in ceremonies around the world. Further prayers are invited.

# ELISABETH CHRISTINA SALM

## CELEBRATION OF LIFE



**Friday June 1, 2018  
7:00 – 8:00pm**

**First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa  
30 Cleary Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario**

The core values of service, radical inclusiveness, compassion, and grace make the healing impact of the life of Elisabeth Christina Salm unstoppable.

"Djies" was born in Hawkesbury, Ontario on January 21, 1959 – the second of five children. Her father, Jacob Salm, originally from Haarlem, the Netherlands, was greatly influenced by the pioneering plant ecologist and teacher, Jac. P. Thijsse. A few years after Djies' father and her Dutch mother, Ange Willemstijn, immigrated to Canada, her father worked as a forestry engineer in Harrington, Quebec. There the company, CIP, supported him as he took time to educate local youth about the forest. The Jaap Salm Trail and an educational natural science centre in Arundel, Québec are a tribute to that work. Djies inherited from her father and mother a total love of the forest.

In 1967 the family moved close to Ottawa, to Honey Gables, off River Road, along the Rideau River. Later she and her husband, Lyle Young, would live on the Rideau River close to Rideau Falls in the Ottawa neighbourhood of New Edinburgh.

After graduating from Carleton University with a geology degree, she worked in northern Ontario. There she loved the people but observed serious problems with resource extraction. Taking without giving was antithetical to Djies' being. She had been raised in a Christian Science Sunday School, Christian Science being a faith tradition that teaches that creation is spiritual, good, and to be lovingly cared for. Her dedication to Christian Science particularly increased when in 1990 she married Lyle, who as a Christian Science practitioner gives his full time to helping others through prayer.

The couple had terms of endearment for each other in Dutch, Spanish, French, and English languages which they spoke together regularly. Lyle's favourite for her was the Dutch "hartendiefje" – "little stealer of hearts." By her kindness, gentleness, warmth, and love she stole Lyle's heart and of those of others who knew her.

The home that Elisabeth made with Lyle epitomized the Dutch "gezelligheid," meaning coziness, warmth, and intimacy. Their house was used for community meetings (choir executive, environmental, indigenous issues, neighbourhood security) and many parties (New Years, July 1, and the Dutch Sinterklaas holiday party). They opened their home to a brother-in-law for about a year, Djies' mother for about two years, and a nephew for four. Their welcoming home continued in Boston where, because of Christian Science church assignments they lived from 2004 to 2007, and when they went back and forth between homes in both Ottawa and Boston between 2011 and 2017.

Djies played a key role on two Syrian sponsorship teams and prepared the Salm-Young home to be the first place the families would stay before the teams were able to find permanent housing for them. In one instance she learned, just before visiting a niece in Japan, that one of the families would be arriving. She spent much of that trip emailing through the night details of the house to neighbours and family, from a tatami mat in a small Tokyo apartment, under the covers so as to not disturb the others in the one-room apartment.

On May 24, 2018, Elisabeth was working a half block away from city hall at the Christian Science Reading Room, her church's open door to the community, when she experienced a serious attack and sexual assault. She succumbed to the injuries the following day. She had metaphorically and literally given her life to God and the community.

Rather than focusing on the way Djies died, we pledge to celebrate and be inspired by the way she lived: her husband, Lyle; her siblings, with their respective families: Luc-Anne, Roland, Floris and Mundie; Lyle's mother, Kezia Young; and Lyle's siblings, with their respective families, their names being Dale, Gary, Verna, Lauren, and Leslie.

## PROGRAMME

Leading us through the programme will be

Ruth Stewart-Verger –

*Elisabeth's close friend since high school and StoryTeller*



Johannes Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem – A German Requiem – first chorus  
*Johannes Brahms Choir, Christopher Askwith director and accompanist Svetlana Logigan*

Selig sind, die da Leid tragen,  
denn sie sollen getröstet werden.  
Die mit Tränen säen,  
werden mit Freuden ernten.  
Sie gehen hin und weinen  
und tragen edlen Samen,  
und kommen mit Freuden  
und bringen ihre Garben

Blessed are they that mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
They who sow in tears,  
shall reap in joy.  
Go forth and cry,  
bearing precious seed,  
and come with joy  
bearing their sheaves

## SPEAKERS AND MUSICIANS

Luc-Anne — Floris — Roland — Mundie

*Elisabeth's sisters and brothers*

Hennie Buckshi – *close friend of the Salm family and of Lyle,  
and fellow member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Ottawa*

Harriet Walker – *Luc-Anne's daughter and Alaura Kennedy, Harriet's partner*

Vicky Boldo – *wife of Lyle's brother Lauren, The Dene Healing Song*

Richard Maclure – *good neighbour and friend of Elisabeth and Lyle*

Dale Young and Marie-France Aird-Young  
*Lyle's oldest sister and daughter of Lyle's brother, Lauren*

Jorge Sorger – *co-volunteer with a local city group dedicated to climate change issues*

Comments from Bruce Hyer

*close friend of Elisabeth and long-time international environmentalist and  
former Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay – Superior North*

Soloist Juliana Krajcovic and accompanist Luis Camacho –  
*Climb Every Mountain* from the musical *The Sound of Music*,  
written by *Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein*

Lyle Young, *Elisabeth's husband*

