

# SALLY HALL

A life well lived

DATES 31 March 1946 to 5 January 2021



## A TRIBUTE FROM DR SHANNON KENDAL

For many years, Sally has been one of the leading figures in the CT School.

She managed to combine the qualities of being passionate on the one hand, while remaining intelligently level-headed on the other.

She also had a delightfully impish sense of humour that she could release at a moments notice.

The Auburn House School, that she created, stands as a monument to the practical intelligence she brought to her passion for child education.

We will miss her profoundly, as will generations of children that passed through her caring hands.

May her soul rest in peace.

# RICHARD OATES SPP EXCO

Some time in 2003 I was asked to go around to Auburn House and take a few pictures of Sally with teachers and children, and the premises. Some of the pictures were posed for specific purposes, and others were taken very much on-the-fly. I made several visits over that period.

A few things stood out for me straight away.

Firstly, Auburn House was clearly based on a foundation of love and trust. This started from the top and shone through everyone there - teachers, children, cleaners, groundsmen and all.

Secondly, Sally was a born teacher, and everyone there was learning something - teachers, children, cleaners, groundsmen and all!

Sally wasn't a "front of stage" personality. She preferred to stand back a bit, pointing out interesting things, and guiding everyone else into positions where they could shine. In several photographs, she is only visible because I stood back to include her while she was happily observing. The love and care shining from her is clearly visible in those pictures!

Back at Philosophy School, Sally was a member of the SPP Exco for many years. She looked after the Education portfolio for quite a while, at a time when the School was actively involved with Auburn House. She also took up various other portfolios, and always brought the same care and love to everything she did.

The last two times I saw Sally were both at Kirstenbosch Gardens over this most recent recess. On one she was heading up the mountain path with Anthea Fischer, looking intrepid and undaunted. On the second she was having breakfast at the Tea Garden with a friend. They looked animated, interested and very much full of life.

On behalf of the current SPP Exco, some of whom worked with her on Exco for many years, I would like to express our gratitude for all her service and devotion. Condolences and love to all who knew her, and we will miss her.

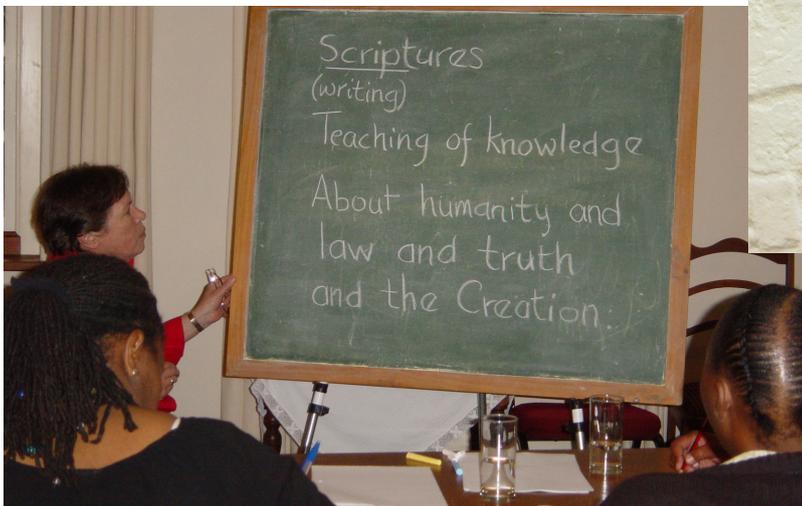


Sally always brought the same care and love to everything she did.



## WE WALK TOGETHER – CHARMAINE KENDAL

We never knew if you loved the colour green or blue,  
Or if you had longings or needs. But in the group  
You revealed the deepest musings of your mind:  
The insights of how life is supported. You could find  
The patterns of things and understood how things were related.  
The three worlds, their laws and how they were created –  
All this we discussed and gave our observations.  
We shared our reflections and our contemplations.  
We understood each other as kindred spirits on a quest  
Believing in the Unity, the Truth, that Consciousness is Best.  
I bow in remembrance of the Reality we uncovered,  
And honour the person for whom the Truth was beloved.  
So long we walked together on this path, pilgrims of the Soul  
**We are still One. There is no division in the Whole**



When I think about Sally, the word that comes to mind is "service". A life of service to society. She was dependable, an independent thinker. Born to teach, committed to education. Could be fiery and outspoken if she perceived something to be unjust or morally wrong. A lifelong follower of the teaching with a special gift of being able to convey the essence of the teaching to others. A compassionate person. Her support and presence will be missed.

- Neville Wright -

A dear dear friend. At a loss to describe the impact Sally had on my life, including as a mentor, an adviser and as a teacher. A few words come to mind - her knowledge, her profound insight and her dedication to serve.

Let's sprinkle that with a simple warmth and at times, a fierce realism.

Sally Hall exemplified order, discipline, kindness, and a love for and of education. Her love for the truth shone forth firmly and her teaching embraced gentility. She will be missed...

- Len Leuw -

I have a clear & beautiful memory of Sally on a specific day, many years ago.

We were standing in the Refectory at the Philosophy School, and her entire being just lit up with delight as she guided my attention to this remarkable work by Mother Julian of Norwich, who lived in the 14th Century.

It had recently been lovingly written out in calligraphy and framed by someone we both knew, and gifted to the School.

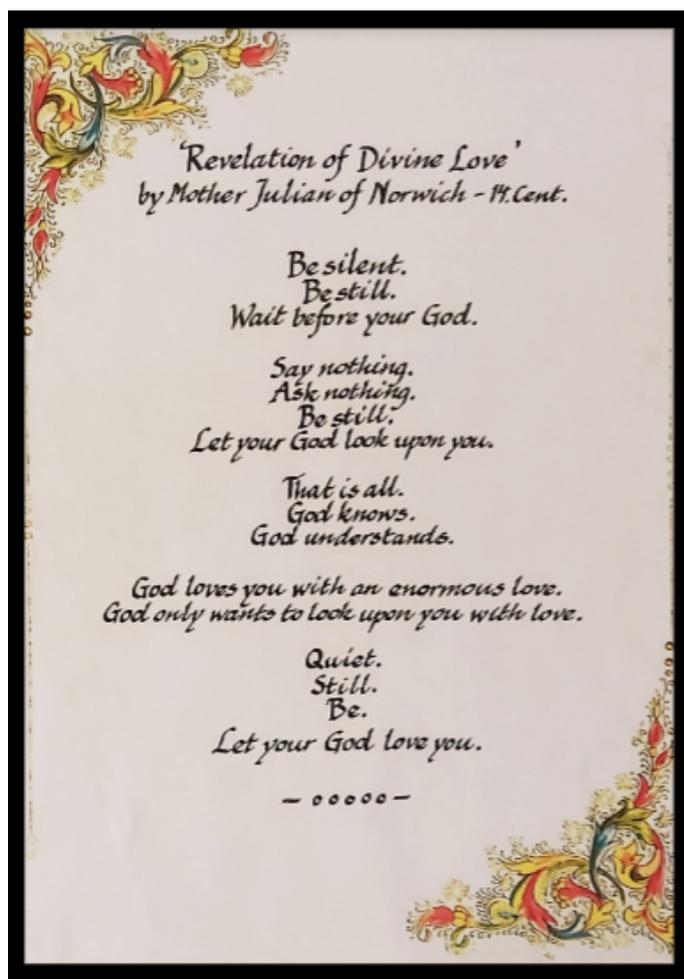
My sense was that she was deeply touched by the feminine nature of this particular sage, and the tender simplicity and open-hearted surrender which the words evoked. And continue to evoke.

Sally practised well the advice, the effects of which were clear in her beingness.

A shining example.

Thank you Sally.

- Renee Oates -



We, the Van Rensburg and Hugo families, would like to pay tribute to Sally who was endlessly kind and helpful to our mother, Aneen.

There were many times when she stepped in to call a paramedic and to let us know that our Mom was not well.

What a wonderful woman she was.

We shall always remember her with love.

## A REMEMBRANCE FROM JANET FREEMANTLE

My association with Sally goes right back to when she arrived here from England, intent upon starting a Montessori school.

I used to give Nora lifts after group meetings back to her home in Milnerton, when we were living at Potsdam, and she would always talk about Sally. There was a remarkable relationship. Aside from their strong mother/daughter bond, they were friends, deeply respectful of each other, and real soulmates. Sally will have greatly missed Nora, since her death in 2019.

Sally was one of the early pioneers of the Montessori movement in Cape Town, starting with a small school operated from her kombi, to establishing the flourishing school that Auburn House is now. Both Matthew and Simon attended Auburn House in their pre-school years.

When news of Sally's death reached us we were all together in Redelinghuys. Matthew remembered her with these words. "She was incredibly close and respectfully distant at the same time. She was right there with you but it felt like she respected your independence. I mostly have a memory of her face which was constant, clear and happy". Working as the counsellor at Auburn House for many years, I often witnessed this aspect in Sally's interaction with children. Her office door was mostly open, and children would come in to show her something, or tell her something, and she would turn to them, and respond with the utmost respect and interest.

Aside from our association through Auburn House, and Philosophy School, we were friends. I last visited her early in December. She was clearly not well, though not sure then of the diagnosis. She said that she knew that it was "serious" though, and I feel sure she was already preparing herself for the end. We had a beautiful conversation. She spoke of how, when feeling so ill at one stage, she was laid low in bed for days, and simply observed the contents of the mind flow by in a stream, with absolute detachment. I referred to a passage in one of the Conversations, so she fetched her copy, and it was full of underlinings and bookmarks. It was obvious that this was a much-read book, more like a manual. The Teaching was so strongly with her till the end, and what a blessing this was.

I will miss her. Her warmth, honesty, kindness, and wonderful sense of humour.



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I mostly have a memory of her face which was constant, clear and happy.

## MEMORIES FROM CRIS MATHEW

Having known Sally both as a fellow long-time philosopher and as a parent of her school for many years, here are some of my favourite memories:

The way that she interacted with children was lovely to watch, and didn't seem to vary in its constancy. She'd give them all of her attention, and meet them in their world of interests. The focus was on the child, not her. I never saw her being loud or in any way bossy with a child in all of our time there, even when they needed correcting. Always respectful, unimposing, interested, kind, and fun! During concerts and recitals, she would enthusiastically applaud every child who'd mastered a line or a simple tune on the recorder, not indulgently, but with genuine pleasure.

A common scene with my young daughter was her skipping happily into school in the morning and running up to Sally for a hug on the way to her classroom. Sally would greet and smile and lightly offer an arm or two for a hug. Never leaning in too much - just responding warmly and lightly. Her principal's office featured some interesting bits and pieces, including a rather special vintage typewriter, which the children would be allowed to touch and look at when they visited. Not the usual kind of principal's office!

Another favourite snapshot is after our son had left to go to high school. Sally would occasionally invite him to join her for a movie at The Labia when something was on that she knew he'd enjoy, sometimes with a couple of other kids. Sally would be just as enthusiastic and curious, like a youngster herself. Not the usual kind of principal.

One of the most beautiful things for me is the way that Sally took such wonderful care of her very elderly mother. She'd bring her to school concerts and music recitals and somehow managed to be attentive to her mom's needs and manage a school event at the same time, and that gentle attentiveness was a constant feature whenever they were seen together.

In more recent times, we'd see one another every Wednesday morning at philosophy, starting with Sally setting up her lecture room while the choir was still singing in it. She managed to do this completely unobtrusively, while also jiggling and smiling to the music. I'm sure we sang better to entertain her more, having an appreciative audience.

In our many conversations, which always flowed easily, we could be discussing any topic at all, and she'd add her clear, wise and refreshingly original perspective on how and why things work the way they do, or don't.

Her conversation and presence will be missed by many, I'm sure, as well as her sharp mind, quick wit, quirky sense of humour, wisdom and insight.



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Sally didn't  
waver in  
her  
constancy

**A poem from Rabindranath Tagore**

*Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet.*

*Let it not be a death but completeness.*

*Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.*

*Let the flight through the sky end*

*in the folding of the wings over the nest.*

*Let the last touch of your hands be gentle*

*like the flower of the night.*

*Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment,*

*and say your last words in silence.*

*I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light your way.*

Dear Sally,  
always there with gentle and  
often humorous words of  
encouragement. Your  
presence will be sadly missed.  
Rest in peace and love.

- Penny Koch -



That impish humour  
Always waiting to erupt  
Nothing could suppress for long  
Care and concern  
Each meeting full  
Quality interactions  
That cultured accent  
Sharp mind  
Refinement of study  
Interest in life in you  
Vitality abundant  
Sincerity of purpose  
Always better for  
meeting you, Sally.

- Jasper Horrell -

Sally was loved by all who knew her:

she was always empathetic, listening closely to whatever was put to her. She gave all her extensive knowledge and experience to an enquiry. This could be child behaviour or Philosophy or anything else which came up.

Her modesty made her approachable - I am sure she never talked down to anyone. She could laugh or cry as befitted the occasion. I think she spent her life giving and all that love will come back to her in abundance.

May she rest in peace and love.

We miss you, Sally!

- Manya Kruger -

When I think about Sally I cannot but think that she was an extraordinary woman. We spend time together on Saturday morning meditation and what comes to my mind is that I never saw Sally upset or disturbed or any of the emotional moods that make other people uncomfortable. She had contentment to her that always made me feel welcome and accepted. The mornings we had a chat she always had a soft but genuine little giggle that was so unique to her.

And I cannot recall her complaining ever. She was optimistic, supportive, and full of love for everyone.

It took months before she told me a little about her life story and how she got to South Africa and then decided to stay. And the result was that her mom followed her and stayed in RSA too.

I am glad that she was part of my life and that I could meet the Absolute in Sally.

Rest in peace

- Antoinette Heyns -



Sally, you were one of the most humble people I have ever known. You made a deep impression on me, teaching one simply by example, going about your duties quietly and lovingly. I feel privileged to have known you and share in your friends of many years' grief and sense of loss. Although I will miss your presence in the school, your wisdom, teaching and shy smile, I know you are in a blissful place, called home.

- Teresa van den Berg -

Sally, how could one not smile when you saw Sally... the heart just naturally opened knowing it was safe. At one of our meetings the heart was so happy to see her that I said "Hello My Sallykins!!!" to which her eyes opened wide and then the giggles started... always waiting in the wings. From that day on she was Sallykins, and it always got a titter in response, as if for the first time.

I so admired the way Sally took care of her dear mum Nora, such genuine love, care and patience - the absolute definition of service and attending to the need. I loved their courageous stories of coming out to Africa from England and would seek out their company at Satsanga's to hear the next episode.

Sally was just Sally - as pure as pure can be.

A special soul who will live on in our hearts.

- Kate Colsell -

## MEMOIRS FROM LIFE-LONG FRIEND, CHRISTINE FARRINGTON

Sally Hall, who drove me from Cornwall to London to start a new life, eventually packed her old Mercedes car, her black Labrador Zac, and herself, onto a cargo ship and sailed across to Argentina. Heartbroken friends followed her journey through Patagonia via her mother, Lola Hall, with whom we spent happy weekends at her home in Sussex, catching up on travels with Sally. After travelling some dodgy months through Patagonia, Sally got the news that her uncle Don, living in Majorca, had died, and his wife, Rosita, was left bereft and not knowing what to do. Sally immediately made elaborate plans to get to Majorca taking Zac with her. Sally remained in Majorca for some years and even purchased a small finca (farm) there. Being in Majorca, meant that we, her friends, could now visit Sally – being a lot nearer than South America. Lola was delighted to have her daughter nearer, and she too spent time on the island.

After an unpleasant divorce from her QC husband, Lola decided to move from Sussex to South Africa. A few years after, Sally wanted to do the same and getting on a Greek cargo ship in Lisbon with her beloved Zac, sailed to Cape Town to join her mother. Three days after arriving in Cape Town in 1981, Sally joined a Montessori School teaching primary children. Some months later, she wanted to be able to teach children of all races, but this was during the apartheid regime in South Africa and was not allowed. Sally made the decision to start her own school, which she did in a residential area of Cape Town – it was a long haul to establish after finding a large, attractive Victorian House to use as a school. It was the first school in South Africa to have pupils of mixed race – a brave thing to do against the apartheid establishment in those days. Sally persevered, and when Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the country's first black president on May 10, 1994, the school applied for registration with the Department of Education and received a resounding accolade when the school inspectors came to review the school.

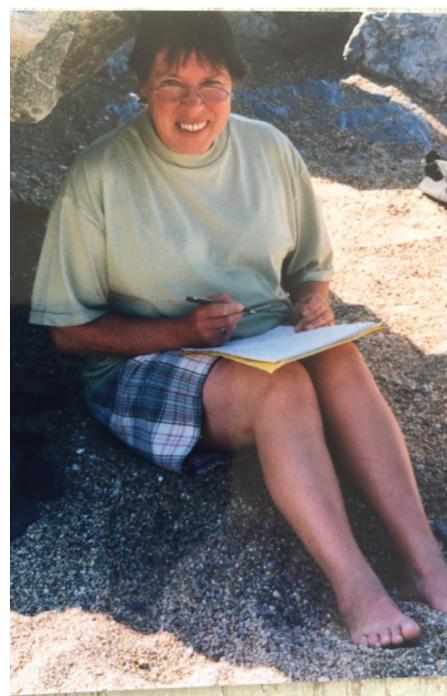
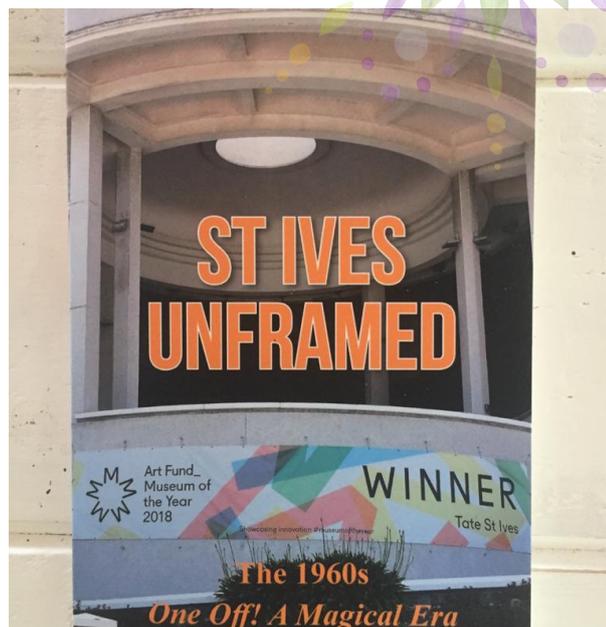
### *IT IS TRUE*

Oh, what an effort it is  
to love you as I do!

For love of you, the air,  
my heart  
and my hat hurt me.

Who will buy of me  
this ribbon I have  
and this grief of white  
linen to make handkerchiefs?

Oh, what an effort it is  
to love you as I do!



Thirty-six years later, the school is the leading Montessori School in the country. It has grown in enormous proportions, the education is excellent, and Sally has been an outstanding Principal, much loved and admired by both staff and pupils. Today, forty-nine years later, Sally remains my best and closest friend. Her mother

# MEMORIES OF SALLY HALL

*Sally was always a calm and lovely presence at both school and at the many Satsanga's I was fortunate enough to share with her. One of my favourite memories of her was when she would pop into a choir practice and do a little jig if the music moved her. May she rest in peace*  
- Sara John -

Dearest Sally  
You gave my children a wonderful beginning to their lives and their schooling . Even last month you gave me precious advice for my son's adopted daughter . Thank you. I will always remember your gentle kindness , care , courage , sometimes quirky ideas (!) , clear thinking and direction, and your love of life and of humanity . I'm sure that God has a special place for you to continue teaching . I feel so grateful to have known you . God's Blessings to you and your family.  
- Christine Stevenson -

*The Zulu saying would be "A great tree fell in the forest today".  
A beautiful soul who taught by example..  
Hamba kahle Sally.  
Sherren Craythorne*

**Sally was such a wonderful special person inside and out, we will mourn the loss of her.**

**Sending condolences to her brother , and other family members and to all those she touched.**

**I will miss her.**

**- Pippa -**

It was a few years ago that I attended a weekly meditation led by Sally. It was at a time when I had reached a crossroads in my life and needed to decide which way to go. Sally's empathetic guiding each week drew me to approach her with my dilemma. Her wise words remain with me to this day and she will always have a special place in my heart.  
RIP Sally.

- Diana Thompson -

Sally's passing is indeed very sad news. I am heartbroken. I often enjoyed Sally's humour and wisdom during the little bits of our tea time over the years. My sincere condolences to you all, her colleagues, students and friends. She will live on in the hearts of many. MHDS RIP. She is -"only a few steps ahead along the road we all walk"

- Leonora Adriaans -

**So grateful to have known her. She was a wonderful, gentle intelligent being. May her soul fly free in Brahman.**

**- Christina Auerbach -**

My Deepest Sympathy to her family. MHS RIP  
- Cameron February -



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A  
Rare  
Person  
this  
Sally Hall.

## RECOLLECTIONS FROM SUE DE HUTTON

I had known Sally for many years in the Philosophy School but it was really during time spent teaching at Auburn House that one came to see the quality of this remarkable woman.

One of the many, many things I loved about being at Auburn House were the weekly meetings with this exceptional woman, mentor, friend, fellow student and just all-round Amazing Person.

There is so much one could write about this person Sally Hall.

I think we both enjoyed those meetings thoroughly, and found like-mindedness and enjoyment in myriad things.

Many things stood out at once about her as a school principal. For lack of space, the one that stood out the most was that her office door was always open to any child or adult, unless she was in a meeting. I'm sure she had no idea of the effect this had in the hearts and minds of lesser mortals.

An analogy of the open heart perhaps? And something still remembered in the heart of this writer, A Rare Person this Sally Hall. There are so many stories one could write of her, both in and out of Auburn House.

One of many other gifts was her ability to find a suitable 'space' in which someone could thrive, i.e. someone perhaps unaware of hidden abilities was seen to be 'perfect' for a certain situation. A good practice for life, when one is not seeing these things!!!

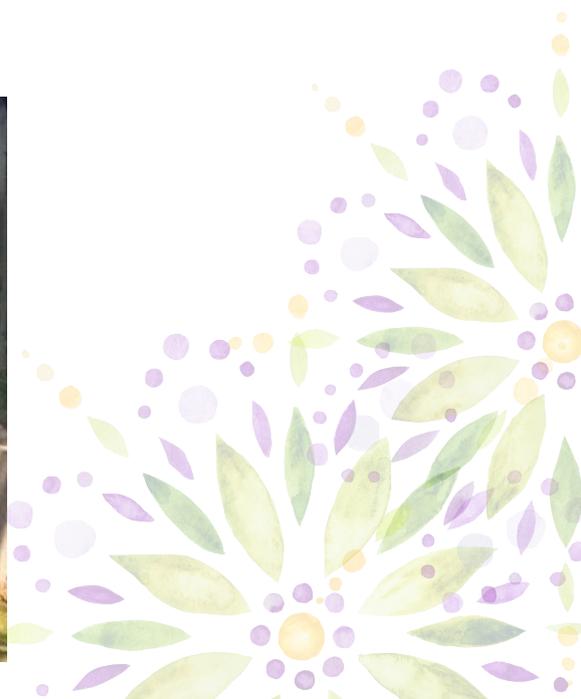
Within the Philosophy School, a Remarkable Tutor, full of compassion and understanding, displaying the same qualities I had seen at Auburn House. A person with real heart.

A very Loved Person was Sally Hall.

While at Auburn House she was asked how one could console a young child whose parent had died and who perhaps feared not being able to remember what that person had looked like.

She said you just had to remind the child that the one who had passed on would always be in the child's heart.

Perhaps we will also be like children.



## A CONTRIBUTION FROM ANNETTE AND ALBERT VAN ZYL

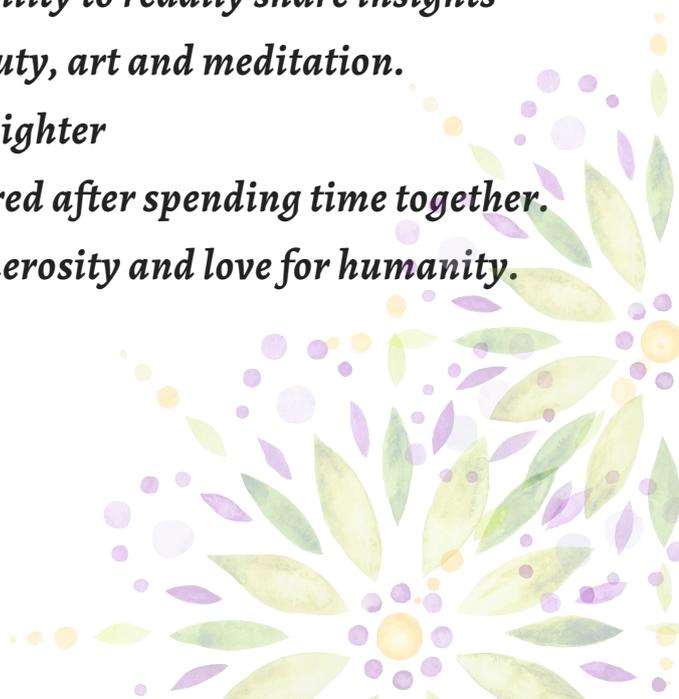


*Amongst Sally's many qualities was her ability to readily share insights  
and delight in our shared love for beauty, art and meditation.*

*We were always left a little brighter and lighter*

*and inspired after spending time together.*

*This painting is dedicated to her and her generosity and love for humanity.*





Just a quick memory - Sally Hall, Carrington Steyl, and I started Part 1 together in 1981 in the Radio City building in Cape Town. She was always there - I find myself amazed that she no longer is - not physically anyway.

Years ago when the children were going home after children's Saturday school at Talana Road, she astonished me with a minor problem - she had two vehicles to take home and needed a driver for one of them. I had a heavy-duty licence so could help. She did not have such licence but was happily driving that thing around it seemed, and justifiably because she was making library books available inside it for underprivileged children - it was a very long bus.

- Kevin McShannon -

I remember Nora with affection, and Sally from much more recently . She was a trained teacher and getting ready to set up the School about the time we left, for which I respected her a lot. And she has always been friendly when I've said hello to her on visits : but I don't know her well, I think she was very discreet. With that, she had a little smile, as if she perceived the joke of the universe: so I think she had the knack of being at the same time in the human, and the spiritual.

- Stephanie Rougier-Lagan -

From my first encounter with Sally, I felt a deep connection with her. Her capacity for kindness and compassion humbled and touched me so. I was unable to tell her what a profound impact she had on me because I did not dare telling her and one thinks there is time to do that later.

I have an immense debt of gratitude to her and tonight I pray for her.

May She Rest In Peace

- Françoise Verhoef -

I first met Sally at 6 am mediation on Saturdays, shortly after my initiation, 11 years ago.

I was instantly drawn to her stillness and as time went on, her wisdom.

I had just been appointed as housekeeper and Sally encouraged me through the learning process. I always turned to her when I needed advice and there she was. all the time in the world to listen.

I will miss her presence, her wit and her wise counsel dreadfully, but am very grateful to have known this wonderful lady.

-Lindy Lloyd -



The most endearing and enduring memory of Sally was her wit and humour.

It was sparkling and vibrant to spend time with her basking in the presence of her intelligence, heavily laced with common sense and laughter.

While thinking about this tribute to her I remembered how when she was our teacher she brought along a book about meditation where it was proposed that each day be considered as a pilgrimage to the meditation and that twice a day (with any luck) the pilgrimage would be fulfilled only to start again the next day - for me that was a great comfort in that if I failed to reach the promised land today, I could start the journey again, no questions asked or guilt allowed!. She gave so readily and freely the gift of reassurance.

This essentially is what I honour in her - an ability to bring to events a kind of feminine artistry, a promise, that all was possible with the lightest, lightest touch. It was I suspect that light touch that kept her in the background as a steady, still, loving presence - I feel privileged to have met her and to have spent time with her and will sorely miss her wisdom, intelligence, selflessness but most of all the fact that she was here, and is no longer, but elsewhere somewhere in the great unknown.

All love, All good and All truth to you most beloved Sal!

It only remains to say my deepest condolences to her family.

- Carole Goeminne -



Pieter and I first met our beloved Sally nearly 40 years ago. She had come to babysit for us when we attended lectures at the Philosophy School. She sat in our lounge smoking a cigarette and said very seriously that she shouldn't be babysitting as she wasn't the right person to be looking after children! I am surprised we didn't all hear gales of laughter from the Universe. Her contribution to children everywhere including the Townships has been phenomenal. For many months once a week I drove my cleaning lady and two others to Talana Road where Sally gave them a Philosophy lecture. It was beautifully thought out and they loved it and never missed.

Her example and friendship have been one of the greatest privileges of our lives.

With gratitude and love we salute you, great soul.

- Pieter, Margaret and Karen -

Having had Sally as a tutor for 8 years, she unconsciously (I think) gave us permission to experience her wonderful qualities.

For herself, she never gave the feeling of being of importance; rather being there at the moment and with attention, and the right response would come to the fore. She has been anchored and lived THE TEACHING.

How blessed we were.

- Edith Lung -





## MESSAGE FROM A GROUP OF EX AUBURN HOUSE PARENTS WHOSE GIRLS ARE ALL 19 NOW

Sally's passing is such a sad moment in time and we would like to pass on our sincere condolences to her family and close friends.

Our daughters were together at Auburn House for a number of years and some of us had dealings with Sally before our children joined the school. What stands out for all of us is that Sally, as a school principal, had her own very particular style. She would sit down with you and really listen. Her heart was present and while she didn't always have all the answers, and nor did she pretend to, you knew she'd heard you. She had so much experience and was fascinating to listen to when you asked for her thoughts and her stories, but one would have to press for those thoughts and opinions. She was always more eager to hear, to celebrate others and just exercised extraordinary levels of humility. This quality was such a wonderful example within a school setting and perhaps more so in a private school with somewhat demanding parents. Those beautiful eyes always shining so brightly, friendly and eager to engage most openly no matter what topic or tricky subject might be in need of talking through. Her levels of integrity stood tall and strong and given some circumstances where one might see or even expect a more heavy-handed approach, this was not Sally. Always even, fair and approaching situations with great care for all involved. There were times when her behaviour betrayed her age and position – one could not help being fully enchanted by this wise and dedicated woman who would delight you with her more playful side, with that joyful skip in her step and her laughter that was both sophisticated and innocent.

As a community, we have indeed lost a great soul. It was a real privilege to cross paths with this most gentle of beings.

With much love from  
Jowayne, Nazley, Fazloena, Zaahir,  
Lynn and Joe



Sally, the one who always had a smile on her face, read us stories every Friday. I clearly remember her reading books written by Michael Morpurgo, which brought all of us joy. We really enjoyed hearing stories about dogs and their adventures, it made our Fridays delightful. She taught us about meditation at a young age too, which really helped me during high school.

Sally was the most genuine, happy and joyful person I knew. She and her mom (who was in her late 90s!) came to all my school plays (which were three hours long!) after I left Auburn House, and always kept in contact with my family and me. She really cared about her students and supported us always.

- Mushfiqah Kriel -

Sally Hall, a woman and friend extraordinaire, passed away yesterday January 5th.

Sally was the founder and principal of Auburn House School, which Silas and Linus attended from they were 4 and 2.5yo and up until grade 6 and 5.

She was loved by all, a rock in Silas and Linus young life, and became not just a dear friend to me, but together we worked with the children of the Bushmen in the Kalahari, a cause close to Sally's heart.

I learned so much from Sally, her deep commitment to the Montessori method, her life-long affiliation at the School of Practical Philosophy, her wisdom.

Sally will always be in our hearts and fond memories. May she rest in peace and love.

- Laura Lykkegaard -



**I remember Sally as such a strong figure in my childhood - she was always a firm woman but she had such a kind heart and always greeted me with warmth and kindness.**

- Georga Key -

She really was a one in a million principal, mentor and friend to all she touched.

Rest softly Sally.

- Washiela Shira Rawoot -

**We will always remember her for who she was and how she made one feel in her presence.**

**May she rest now.**

- Dominique Staal -

Rest in peace Sally we always miss your smile

- Vuyelwa Mayeki -

**May she know the joy of paradise.**

- Michael Weeder -



She was a real inspiration, especially her love and commitment to Montessori and our children.

- Suad Agherdien -

**Sally has touched our lives with her passion for learning and reading, love for our kids and her commitment to Montessori education. She will be missed.**

- Sherneen Dayaram -

The loss is enormous, but so are the wonderful memories of many many years of deep and dedicated work, hilarity and laughter, too much wine around campfires in the Kalahari, tough lessons learned and meaningful lessons given, guidance, friendship and her extraordinary life of selfless service.

She truly touched SO many people's lives, teachers, mothers and fathers, and hundreds and hundreds of children.

How blessed I am to have stood in her ranks for all these years.

A true warrior for the Child.

- Jennifer Moore -



*"Life is a gift, and I try to respond with grace and courtesy" -  
Maya Angelou*

Truer words could not be said of how Sally chose to live her life. She sought a life of simplicity and was deeply connected to the earth and sustainability. These qualities permeated through Auburn House School. She impacted the Montessori community in a most profound manner - never imposing, but always gently guiding. Her deep respect and love for the children was shown in the simplest of details, from examining a tiny caterpillar to telling exciting stories of the universe. Every adult and child felt listened to, valued and encouraged in her presence. Sally - teacher, mentor, colleague, friend, and who was dearly loved by many. Thank you for the lasting legacy that you have given so generously.

From everyone at Auburn House

With best regards,

Melanie Vaughan - School Administrator & Admissions

I met Sally in Cape Town in 1980 maybe 81 when she started teaching at The Children's Workshop Montessori School. Our son Oliver now 46 was in her class. Sally put on an inspiring course about Montessori for the parents. I was hooked! It led to a lifelong passion for Montessori education. I did a correspondence course from the St Nicholas Montessori College in London and opened my own Clifton Children's House Montessori School in Bristol UK in 1989. I sold it in 2012 and it is still thriving. Sally was an inspirational woman. I visited her school a couple of times and I was lucky to see her last February just before the lockdown. I was so sorry to hear of her death.

- Rosamund Payne -

Sally Hall joined the Independent Quality Assurance Agency as a Mentor in 2017 specialising in Montessori Schools. She was a highly valued member of the Western Cape School Evaluation Team and her in-depth knowledge and experience of the Montessori educational philosophy and methodology was greatly respected. She was always willing to be of service and her dedication, kindness and quirky sense of humour will be greatly missed.

- Eugene Rabie -

Look at me, I am your friend  
On the night when you leave the house of your body  
I will be with you in the grave.  
You will hear my voice and know that  
We were never separated.  
I am the lucid core of your being  
I've been by your side in joy and suffering.  
On that fateful night you will hear my familiar voice,  
See the lit candles and smell the sweet incense.  
I will bring you food and wine.  
On that night you will hear the blast of the trumpet  
That will rip open the shrouds of the dead.  
On that night the dust of all ages will be stirred  
By the glory of the resurrection. Do not look for me in human shape, for  
The soul is subtle and love is jealous.  
There is no haste for form in love.  
-- Rumi --

**Such a special lady with a mellifluous voice and naughty, razor-sharp wit. I shall miss our chats and your incredible insights and am blessed and privileged to have known you.**

**Rest peacefully, dear friend.**

**- Desiree Gordon -**

Thank you for being you, thank you for your love, care, compassion and wisdom which you shared so generously. You were a friend to all and a true inspiration to me throughout the years I was privileged to attend your classes. I miss your gentle, and often mischievous, smile. May you rest in peace.

- Alice Moll-

Sally served us all with love, great gentleness, friendship and an abundance of affection. She was a dear friend and will be greatly missed. Our hugs were always shared with warmth, joy & delight. I'm honoured to have known such a beautiful soul.

Love always

- Aliko Kanias -

**I loved your smile ,Your uncomplicated ways, Your warmth and friendship ,Your mischievous chuckle , I am so glad to have met you. We shared such glorious moments together on our annual Satsangas whether in the Cape or in Joburg . Thank you for your genuine and unadorned sisterhood. You will remain a true friend in my heart always .**

**- Christine Meissner -**

**A no-nonsense lady, Sally Hall. A lady in every sense of the word: erudite, discrete, sensible, generous, charming.**

**I met Sally at the School and discovered we shared basic education as the source of our bread and butter and fascination. Being the generous lady she was, she also was able to be discerning - hence the no-nonsense.**

**Sally had taken under her wing a young chap who'd arrived at her doorstep asking to do odd jobs. He'd been shunted all over the place by his struggling parents, so he went around offering to do odd jobs. Sally thought that I might be able to assist the chap as a male figure and mentor. With Sally's support, he managed to get matric even though he was essentially homeless. When he didn't turn up as arranged to do something at Sally's house, she was the no-nonsense guide he needed. I tried to help in my own way, but lacked Sally's patience and faith. She had that sense of humour that took my impatience into account too. I believe that chap is finding his way in the world now, having benefited from Sally's guidance and kindness.**

**Sally's education professionalism was greatly respected in the circles in which we moved. Her sense of humour was much appreciated. Her courage and equanimity was exemplary. I will miss her.**

**I thought the attached photo, that came my way shortly after I'd heard of Sally's passing, captured much of my experience of Sally - even to the extent of my losing faith in the chap she nurtured.**

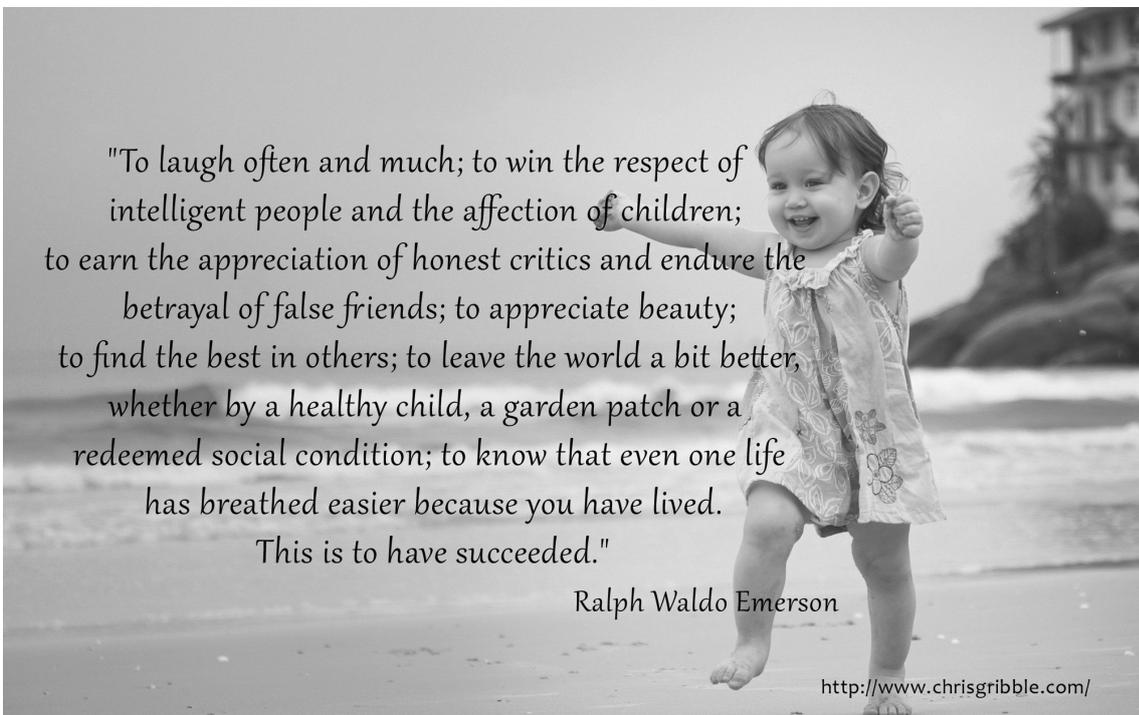
**- Tony Marshal -**

*"To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.*

*This is to have succeeded."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

<http://www.chrisgribble.com/>



## TRIBUTE TO SALLY FROM HER MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP

We had her as tutor for 3 wonderful years and as you will hear we all feel very blessed by this experience. We are a group with some very headstrong, independent women, but Sally managed to skilfully weave us together and as you will hear from these tributes she is sorely missed. Each message came directly from the individual's Heart.

"I feel blessed indeed to have had Sally as a tutor. To me, she was the embodiment of the teachings that she so generously shared with us. Her love of the truth was contagious and she always engaged with such enthusiasm. She had an abundance of goodwill and always gave her full attention, which I'm sure made everyone she came into contact with feel as loved as I always felt in her presence. Sally was able to hold our group, acknowledge our thoughts and experiences and help us navigate the everyday challenges of life through her vast knowledge, her dedication to the material and her wonderful sense of humour. Sally was practical and kind. When I ask myself "what would a wise person do?" it is always Sally who comes to mind"

**To me, Sally's commitment and dedication to imparting her knowledge and wisdom created a very special environment in which to glean the tools for peace and harmony.**

**"Sally was a wonderful woman, quiet but forthright, gentle but strong, wise but also so humble .... a leader and someone that one could feel comfortable in her company ..... I loved every 'class' with her.**

"Thank you for sharing your innate wisdom with us so patiently. I have learned so much and will always hold you and these life lessons in my heart.  
Until we meet again, shine on"

**"I will always remember her beautiful way of reading to us, always taking the time to explain something we didn't understand with such patience and love. She was so calm and we had many sessions filled with laughter and joy as well as learning so much from her. I often used to say to her that I'd love her to read me a bedtime story.**

"I was and still am in awe of Sally's instinctive, inherent wisdom , this cannot be learned and I feel so blessed to have been part of her class. I never had a one-to-one deep sharing session with her ,yet sensed an all knowing, non- judgemental aura . I never doubted that she would 'get it' allowing me to share in a safe place.



Every now and then, a person with no agenda, no ulterior motive, and no self-interest will take pleasure in helping you to succeed, grow, and live your purpose. This person will operate in love, will seek no praise, and will want nothing in return. This person is a gift.

## MORE TRIBUTES FROM SALLY'S MIDDLE SCHOOL GROUP

”

Sally was  
the  
epitome of  
a great  
teacher



Sally did not teach or lecture, she empowered the group to use the tools for peaceful living. She said so much without speaking, she said it all by listening and her wisdom imparted from her beautiful soul has and will stay with me”

“Our Sally. A lady with a gentle heart. Always pleasant, humble and kind - I will treasure and embrace all her teachings Miss you So Much”

Sally, I’ve been so blessed to have had the honour of you being my tutor. I will miss you and will hear you whispering to me in the trees and flowers. Until we meet again“

“Sally embodied all that it is to be a teacher. Her warmth, love, compassion and wisdom made her a shining light which inspired and supported those she came in contact with. She was a true example of someone who lived by her philosophies in great humility.”

**“Sally was the epitome of a great teacher. She had the knack of listening quietly and then drawing deep from her store of incredible knowledge to share her thoughts and give direction.**

**I used to have coffee with her at Kirstenbosch and as I came to realize that she was a lot sicker than any of us wanted to believe, she shared her deep acceptance of what her limited future meant to her and admonished me very gently for feeling emotional.**

**She could look at her past without nostalgia but with a sheer sense of joy for having had such amazing experiences with all the wonderful people she had met along the way.**

**What a great lady. I miss her terribly.”**

I was Sally and her mum Nora's neighbour for 22 & 24 years respectively.

Sally and I, both being in education, quickly struck up a friendship and mentorship; our mutual support socially and professionally was long-standing.

For years we would trade the Sunday Times & Time magazines, criss-crossing our way clandestinely between our respective units in Dorset Close, Harfield Village. We would spend hours discussing current events, and on occasion, take each other to hospital for one or another emergency.

The Hall family history was peppered with fascinating anecdotes dating as far back as the turn of the 20th century.

Sally's mum, who turned 100 and almost made 101 was key to many rich tales!

When my partner Paul moved in, he was quickly adopted by the Halls, as the go-to handyman and technical advisor. By this stage Sally had taken over the position of matriarch of Dorset close from her mum – both equally scary at times if the situation called for it, it has to be said! Notwithstanding a few occasions, my memory of Sally is one of serenity, wisdom and calm in every situation.

During lockdown our sharing primarily involved the swapping of jigsaw puzzles, which Sally enjoyed tremendously in her beautiful sunroom, and would keep us updated on progress via WhatsApp. Each swop would invariably lead to an in-depth discussion on the intricacies and merits of each puzzle discussed over a glass of wine. Mostly wine though!

Paul and I will miss her tremendously. The world is a poorer place without her.

- Lisa Harris and Paul Mathew -



The world  
is a poorer  
place  
without  
her.



## **A PAINTING OF SALLY BY ARTIST RODERICK FREEMANTLE**



Melting of the heart usually achieves two things; First of all, because of certain forces coming into play to melt the heart, a cleansing process takes place, and all the Rajas and Tamas is practically removed from that situation. Once the heart is clear and fluid, then one doesn't have to invite the Grace to come into play. The Grace comes into play by itself so that the cleansing of one's Samskara which takes place because of the melting of the heart and something new and different follows which is the Grace. This Grace is held firmly because of the abundance of Sattva and the clean heart.

If a glass is clean, then the sunlight can come through that glass without any invitation being offered to it, but the sunlight cannot penetrate if its sides are opaque and coated with mud. So the Antahkarana has somehow to be cleaned, and this cleansing is possible only through a prayerful attitude and complete submission so that the forces of the Absolute may come into play within the individual and he should then be able to perform his activities under the influence of Sattva.

*Conversations with the study society 1970*