



The world has experienced a number of disruptive events in 2017, including hurricanes, refugee crises, nuclear threats, wildfires, and political uncertainty. Closer to home, our GISC family is mourning the death of founder Sonia March Nevis. Sonia passed on September 10, 2017. She was predeceased by Edwin Nevis on May 11, 2011.

Edwin and Sonia co-founded the Gestalt International Study Center in 1979. Sonia practiced and taught Gestalt and family-therapy concepts worldwide for many years. She was a founder of the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland where she created the Center for Intimate Systems, devoted to the training of couples and family therapists.

Sonia was the primary contributor to the development of the Cape Cod Model and was the founder and senior faculty member of the Cape Cod Training Program, which she taught for over 35 years.

It is hard to measure the impact Sonia had on the world. To say it was transformational may sound exaggerated, but listening to many at her memorial on October 1, 2017, that is clearly not an overstatement. She taught and demonstrated what it is like to live fully in the world – to be both accepting and discriminating, to be both strategic and intimate, and most importantly to love oneself and others. For those who learned with her directly, you will recall how she often took off her glasses, folded them in her hand, and then like a conductor's baton, pointed them at you and asked "would you like to do some work?" on whatever topic was at hand. You may have gulped as you had that moment of truth: Were you up for a penetrating revelation? If you said no, she would say okay and move on seamlessly. She was generous, gracious, bold, challenging, and insightful. She was also a private person, preferring a good book as much as a party.

For those who missed the memorial, we have provided a [link to some highlights of the service here](#).

For many, including faculty, staff and board members of GISC, our sadness is paired with an enormous sense of gratitude in thinking of her death. She and Edwin leave a legacy of embracing the opportunity to "be" in the world, to contribute to its development, to be joyful, to be willing to disappoint, to be willing to delight, to be willing to influence and be influenced.... In short, Sonia dedicated her life and career to helping others make a difference.

The Board of Directors has elected to focus this year's annual fundraising campaign on the [Nevis Scholarship Fund](#), which provides the opportunity for those who may not

otherwise have the means to be able to participate in GISC programs.

We can think of no more significant tribute to Sonia and Edwin than to extend their legacy to as many people as possible. We need your help and support. Your generous gift will make a difference and will honor the memory of what Sonia and Edwin have meant to so many of us.

You may give online using the following link, where you will also find listed some priority areas to which you may direct your gift:

[Give Online Here](#)

Some wisdom in Sonia's words:

**Be generous - *it's good for your heart***

**Learn to manage your disappointment - *you are disappointing others often***

**Be curious - *you'll be learning continuously***

**Look for the humor in your life - *there is more there than you think***

- Sonia March Nevis, PhD, 1927-2017

We thank you for your continued support of GISC. We are a proud and cohesive family, made better by our time with Sonia and Edwin Nevis. Please give generously.

With gratitude and respect,

Amy, Carol, Deborah, Donna, Donna, Jamie, Joe, Katherine, Laurie, Michael, Ned, Paul, and Susan

The Board of Directors of GISC