

October 2, 2020

The Notorious RBG!

Some of you know that my cousin Christine Brandes is a soprano who has performed in many operas and musical events around the world. A few years ago, she sang a duet with Maria Jette for our prelude here at Plymouth Church. Chris often performs in Washington, D.C. and when not singing would sit in on cases before the Supreme Court. To her surprise, she once received a note from Ruth Bader Ginsburg inviting Chris to Justice Ginsburg's chambers. Chris found out that Justice Ginsburg was a big fan of hers. When marriage equality became law, Chris asked Ruth if she would officiate her marriage to her partner, Bridget MacGraw. Ruth said yes!

Forgive my shameless namedropping, but I do have a point I want to make. When Chris and Bridget were working on their vows and sent them to Justice Ginsburg, Ruth added a line to their vows about "sharing their gifts and talents." As Chris said, "You don't say no to Ruth." They changed their vows.

What I love about this story is that Ruth wanted them to acknowledge the gifts and talents they brought into the world. It was an encouragement not to minimize their contributions to the communities where they live and work.



This past week, the country mourned as Justice Ginsburg was laid to rest. When a person passes the threshold to the other side, the best we can do to keep their legacy alive is to live fully, embodying all that we are called to be. Ruth worked tirelessly for women's rights and gender equality. What are the gifts and talents you are bringing to the world? Let's not hide our lights, especially now. In memory of RGB, let them shine!

Paula