

# Ruth Gorman

By Meggie Biegel

We need more people in the world who are like Ruth Gorman. She was also an example for others to follow. This is why I chose to write about her. She has some great qualities and she's never afraid to help those who weren't always able to help themselves. I enjoy trying to make a difference in the world.

Gorman was born on February 14, 1914 and passed away on December 10th, 2002. She graduated from law like her father and was one of only two women that graduated that year. In 1939, when she graduated, women were expected to work at home in the kitchen and take care of their children. Working women were paid less than men even when they did the exact same job!

She sympathized with Aboriginals, Women Groups and helped them with her knowledge as a lawyer. She fought for a few things like, rights of First Nation groups, rights of mothers living in poverty, education for disabled children and public washrooms for women and all of this on a volunteer basis. She wasn't paid at all!

Ruth Gorman enjoyed publishing; she published and edited the magazine "My Golden West". It was published from 1965 through 1977 and highlighted what interested Ruth Gorman most.

Ruth Gorman called this magazine "My Golden West" because of the golden prairie skies, its golden wheat fields, oil resources and most of all its golden people. This magazine featured articles about current events, real estate, history, travel, homemaker advice, poetry, community

activity and people. Ruth Gorman also had a few paragraphs about Indigenous rights and her political advice.

Ruth Gorman worked alongside John Laurie; they both worked on Indigenous Treaty and voting rights. Gorman had so many successful cases with the Cree she was given the name: Queen Morning Star. This was a great honor. This was a symbol for guidance or finding direction. It is also a symbol for wisdom and understanding. The Cree felt that it was right to give her this name because she helped guide them through the court system in Canada. In 1960 Aboriginal people could finally vote without losing all of their treaty rights which was a very big deal.

For the reason of her good work in the community she was presented with many awards that includes the title of Princess Mountain White Eagle Girl for all the work her father and Wesley Stoney Nakoda did on a Hunting Treaty case they fought. Gorman also helped her father with this act. Part of the reason she got the award is because of her years of work fighting for the rights of the handicapped and the First Nation Peoples. She was awarded Calgary Woman of the year in 1960. She also got Citizen of the Year 1961. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Calgary in 1966. Alberta's Woman of the Century in 1967! In 1968, Gorman was awarded the Officer of the Order of Canada, this a very important award given by the Governor General of Canada.

I feel inspired by Gorman because even though she didn't get paid all the time she still continued to volunteer her knowledge and time. I think it's pretty neat that she was born on Valentine's Day and she cares for everybody. To me Valentine's doesn't always mean that you have to have a

date. I think it's a day you should always remember to be kind and enjoy each other's presence. I like that she thought and cared for the people in her community. I don't think you could ever be too busy to just be nice. I volunteer with my mom in our local food bank. Sometimes all people need is just a little pick me up.

I have a plant business where I sell plants at a market in my community. I work hard in this business. It might not become my job in the future but it is my passion right now. I enjoy selling the plants for multiple reasons. The most important being I like taking care of plants and seeing the way a business really works. I entered a women in business competition just to see if I could do it (and maybe even try to get in second place). I ended up getting first and won a \$150 prize! I'm quite proud of myself for going into that competition and winning, it shows that it never hurts to try.

Just in the last year or two, my sister and I, with help from our parents, have bought some sheep. We have made three pens for them to graze and eat. We own two rams and raised lambs last year as well as this year. We own 22 ewes that we keep for breeding. We sell the lambs after they are weaned for money and keep one or two to be butchered for food. I enjoy owning sheep because they are cute and have even cuter lambs! Everyday I drive with my sister to go feed the sheep. This includes, taking a bucket and filling it up with screenings (our screenings have chickpeas, durum and lentils), putting some minerals inside of the screenings, pouring the screenings into their troughs and some days refilling their feeder with hay. Me and my sister took on the sheep business because we enjoy hanging out with animals and caring for them. Sometimes when the sheep has a lamb and they can't care for it we have to bottle feed it and we

have to get up early and stay up late. Even though I do not enjoy getting up early, I still get up early for my sheep.

Gorman inspires me because her life wasn't always easy. She had some challenges but she always looked ahead and helped others in need. Gorman showed that girls could do anything! I think it's important for people to try to make the world a better place.

## References

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