Betty Solyom cared about people and the environment, recognizing our responsibility for animals, plants, and other precious resources. She understood deeply the importance of efforts, large and small, toward peace, human rights, and care of those who have the least.

She deeply valued the work of organizations dedicated to solving the world’s most serious problems. Her membership with Greenpeace was one instance of her loyalty to such causes; Betty regularly gave small gifts to many.

A teacher for over fifty years, she challenged generations of students to expand their views of the world, think boldly, examine their values, and act accordingly. She exposed them to new experiences and supported those needing special encouragement — those in the LGBT community or those learning English as recent immigrants.

Born in Chicago, she and her sisters survived the 1918 influenza epidemic but saw their mother pass from it. Every summer her grandparents drove the girls to a cottage at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Grandfather taught them to swim paddling a rowboat around the lake while the girls swam behind. Betty loved swimming and did so for the rest of her life.

She gained a deep appreciation of nature and wild creatures. She loved canoeing with friends and waiting for a bite on a fishing line. As a teenager she earned her lifesaving certificate, serving as swim coach and summer camp counselor. Later, she and her husband brought their sons, Larry and Garrett, to experience the lake.

There were other long-lasting influences. An interest in Frank Lloyd Wright’s architecture arose from walking to school past several of his houses. Her grandfather’s library fed her curiosity and love for stories and exploration. Her love of literature.
Stock and IRA Gifts

FreeWill Collaborates with Greenpeace Fund

Greenpeace introduces tools for giving gifts of stock and from your IRA

Looking to amplify your impact this year? Greenpeace Fund is introducing two new tools to help you make your most powerful donation towards a green and peaceful future.

Do you have appreciated stock? Little known to most, appreciated stock is the most impactful way to give back! If you cash out your stocks before donating to Greenpeace Fund, you would have to pay the capital gains tax, meaning we would end up receiving a significantly smaller donation. However, if you transfer your stock directly to Greenpeace Fund, the gift is tax deductible and the full amount of your gift will go towards fighting injustices against the Earth!

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Were you born before 1949? If you answered “yes,” and you have a traditional IRA, you are eligible to make a tax-free donation from your IRA directly to Greenpeace Fund. Starting when you turn 70.5, you are required to take money out of your IRA. Since you must take this distribution, why not use this opportunity to become the philanthropist you’ve always dreamed of becoming?

Calculate how much you need to take out of your IRA this year at FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund, and see how that amount can help our future greener than our past!

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Betty Solyom Understood the Importance of the Environment (cont.)

developed in high school. As a University of Chicago freshman, she formed a lifelong interest in Greece.

When her father could no longer afford tuition, Betty switched colleges, worked, and paid for herself. She graduated in 1936 from University of Illinois with a high school teacher’s certificate, kept up to date until 1993.

In 1939, Betty toured Britain and Europe. With policies of appeasement collapsing and Nazis about to invade Poland, she refused to abandon her itinerary, returning safely to New York in August. Betty was a determined rebel.

In 1940, she started teaching English, Latin, American history and geography in Elgin, Illinois. She married Val Solyom in 1942, raising two sons. Betty taught English, journalism, speech, ethics and other subjects in area high schools, retiring in 1973. She became a tutor, serving on Elgin Community College faculty for over 20 years. Called “Mrs. Miscellaneous,” she tackled any subject in which a student needed help.

By then, the young romantic had become the thoughtful realist who, even at 105 years old, followed world events, and understood the gravity of climate change to our environment and society. She never stopped learning. Betty Solyom’s legacy continues on in all of the lives that she touched, and in organizations like Greenpeace, who she supported with her last gifts. To Betty Solyom, an inspiration to us all.

Bronwen Solyom is the daughter-in-law of Betty Solyom and was proud to share her memories and her mother-in-law’s legacy story.

The struggle to save our planet will continue long after we are gone, but that doesn’t mean that our voices become silent. By leaving a legacy to Greenpeace Fund, you can continue to be an advocate for the planet that future generations will inherit.

If you wish to name Greenpeace in your will, retirement plan, life insurance or other estate planning document, you will need a few simple facts about us:

**Bequest Information**

- **Legal Status:** Greenpeace Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization
- **Legal Name and Address:** Greenpeace Fund, Inc. 702 H Street NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20001 greenpeacefund.org
- **Federal Tax ID:** 95-3313195

Please contact Corrine Barr at 1-800-328-0678 or corrine.barr@greenpeace.org if you would like to know more about how you can remember Greenpeace in your estate plans.

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