Peter Koret, 60, linguist, storyteller, and teacher, died of brain cancer April 9, 2020, in Bangkok, Thailand. American-born and raised in Brighton, New York, he was educated at the Harley School, Hampshire College, the Naropa Institute, and Bard College, where he received his B.A. in English literature in 1982. He was later awarded a doctorate from the University of London School of Oriental and African Studies, concentrating in Southeast Asian Languages and Literature.

Peter moved to Asia in 1984 as a volunteer teacher in northeastern Thailand for the U.S. Peace Corps. A fluent speaker and reader of Thai, Lao and Shan, he taught courses in Buddhism, Southeast Asian culture, and Thai language at the University of California Berkeley and Arizona State University as well as in Thailand, Laos, and the Shan State of Myanmar. He also taught languages at Dulwich International College (now the British International School) in Phuket, Thailand. He was international baccalaureate translator and grader for students of Lao worldwide. He received grants from the Fulbright Foundation, National Endowment for Humanities, Toyota Foundation, and many others.

Peter’s eclectic writings covered religion, culture, and the politics of free expression in Southeast Asia, with an emphasis on traditional Lao literature and Buddhist prophecy. His discovery and interpretation of Lao traditional palm leaf manuscripts is world-renowned. He is the author, most recently, of Stone Cat, a novel; Even the Worm Turns: The Biography of Thai Author Bantit Aniya; The Man Who Accused the King of Killing a Fish: The Biography of Narin Phasit of Siam, 1874-1950. His works are available on Amazon.

Peter parts (for the time being) with his wife Aot, brother Richard, loving family, friends, colleagues, students, and a motley crew of beloved wild cats, living, dead, and imaginary. He leaves his precious palm leaves, well-preserved but in utter disarray, promising untold pleasures and flights of fancy to future, sufficiently caffeinated, researchers and interpreters.

Donations in Peter’s name -- to assist his Thai family with expenses, preserve his palm leaf collection, perpetuate his literary legacy, and support the school where he taught in the Shan State -- can be sent via PayPal to nomad.nowlez@gmail.com. This address can be used for correspondence and reminiscences about Peter as well. All communications and donations will be promptly acknowledged with appreciation.