

Lenore Paley Waters

June 2, 1925 – November 28, 2017

Lenore was born at home in the Bronx in 1925, to Samuel and Ethel (née Moskalik) Palley (or Paley, depending on who was spelling it). Both of her parents emigrated from what is now Belarus.

She remembered the Bronx of her early days as a place where people had bountiful gardens, tended goats, and, in the case of her maternal grandfather, grew grapes for wine – even through Prohibition, when he was allowed to continue his backyard production because he was making Passover wine, and was president of a synagogue.

Lenore was a graduate of South Side High School in Newark NJ, and the University of Rhode Island. After high school, she lived in various boroughs of New York City and studied acting at the New School Dramatic Workshop and Hunter College. Deciding against acting as a career, she became a medical technician and eventually married Chris Waters, becoming a “faculty wife” (a term she hated!), moving with him to Seattle, WA, Williamsburg, VA and Northfield, MN, before settling for many years in Saunderstown, RI, where she raised her daughters Gwyneth and Jennifer.

Moving to Berkeley, CA in 1976, she found her true home. Lenore worked as a substitute teacher, often at Castlemont High in Oakland. Using her French language skills and desire to help, she served in the Peace Corps in the Ivory Coast 80-81, worked

for the San Francisco regional office of the Peace Corps and volunteered with the Northern California Peace Corps Association. She also worked at The Sharper Image, and after retiring audited countless classes at UC Berkeley and enjoyed many happy years as a docent at the Oakland Museum.

Finally admitting she was a senior, she enthusiastically led a French Conversation group at the North Berkeley Senior Center and became an accomplished writer in The Poetry Workshop there. Her lifelong love of words and language, along with her deep intellect shine through in her work.

Lenore is missed by many, most of all by her daughters. She taught them to welcome all to the table, to be curious about everything, to honor the arts in every form, measuring success by good deeds done.

A memorial is planned for Saturday, February 24 at the Columbarium in San Francisco at noon.

As a tribute to Lenore, we encourage you to make a donation in her honor to the Northern California Peace Corps Association Grant Program, funding community projects to improve lives around the world. Lenore served passionately on the Grant Committee, and would be so pleased to have us help continue her work. Checks can be mailed to: NorCal Peace Corps Association, PO Box 2547, San Francisco, CA 94126, or donate online by going to: <https://www.norcalpca.org/cpages/grants>