

GH-R
6-13-2019

Carol Pollak



Dear Carol's death on May 22nd followed several years of decline from dementia and latterly suffering from ALS. She was born on February 26, 1936, in Camden, N.J. Through most of her childhood she lived in steel-towns Youngstown, Ohio, and Monessen, Pa., where her father managed coke plants. After finishing high school in Monessen she attended Oberlin College where she majored in English, tolerated rides on Bill's motorcycle, and with him decided to be married. After a year in Chicago where Carol worked in the Illinois Department of Public Welfare, she and Bill moved to Princeton,

N.J. While there, Carol earned her MA at Rutgers University School of Social Work and gave birth to Sarah and Ellen. Subsequent moves were largely driven by Bill's occupational wanderlust forcing Carol to find rewarding work at each stop. In Grinnell, she was the first social worker in the Jasper-Poweshiek County Mental Health Center, and in Washington, DC, she was social work director in a small long-stay hospital for chronically ill children. After moving to Chicago, Carol first worked at Michael Reese hospital as a social worker with clinics in pediatric neurology and cardiology, often being busy in evenings with a support group she developed for parents with children suffering from heart disease. Later she worked for 13 years in the Illinois Department of Services for Crippled Children, first as a social worker and later as a regional administrator. After moving to California to be near Sarah and grandchildren Alexander and Harrison, Carol volunteered as a master gardener, first working at the program's telephone help desk and later working in a brain-injury day program helping patients work on gardening projects.

As husband and daughters we can only report that our deep sorrow now is the consequence of satisfactions we found and would have declared throughout our lives with Carol. She was warm, thoughtful, possessed of unusually sound judgment, and supportive when home or work matters were difficult and complex and when doing fun things such as caring for grandchildren, camping with family in the west, and swapping homes with folks in France, England, and Belgium. All of us feel unusually fortunate in the family decision that led us to the Mayflower and to Grinnell where we lived from 1965 to 1969. Carol is survived by her husband Bill; daughter Sarah Pollak and her wife, Sally; Ellen Pollak and her boyfriend Craig; grandsons Alexander and Harrison Pollak; and Carol's brother Terry Throop.

Friends and relatives will gather on June 22nd at 2:00 in the Carman Center to remember Carol. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Schurig Center for Brain Injury Recovery where Carol volunteered when living in California.

Schurig Center 1132 Magnolia Avenue Larkspur, CA 94939
or: schurigcenter.org