A gutsy lady, Raquel E. Ciria was the wife of Alberto Ciria, Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Simon Fraser University. Alberto passed away in 2005 and, sadly, so did Raquel on August 3, 2017. She was born in La Plata, Argentina, on February 9, 1935. She completed her studies in Accounting in the Faculty of Economics at the National University of La Plata in 1961 and spent the following years working as an accountant in Buenos Aires. There she met Alberto and they married in February, 1966. That year was a particularly difficult one in Argentina, a prelude to a much more difficult - and dangerous - time to come. Raquel and Alberto left the country, he taking up a visiting appointment at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. In 1969 they settled in Burnaby, where Alberto joined the Department of Political Science at Simon Fraser University. Throughout, Raquel was Alberto’s greatest supporter.

Raquel enjoyed literature, paintings (Monet), classical music (Schumann), opera, and languages. She studied French at Vancouver’s Alliance Française for several years, took various courses offered by Simon Fraser on opera history and interpretation, and worked as an English/Spanish translator for a UBC-based anthropology journal. She joined the CBC’s Radio Canada International as a Spanish-language reporter/contributor until that unit of the CBC was discontinued. After Alberto’s passing following a prolonged illness, Raquel continued to do volunteer work with seniors at the Confederation Centre in Burnaby. She never forgot her native country (she was very fond of classical tangos), embraced Canada, and was a follower of Canadian Federal and Provincial politics, particularly the NDP proposals. Raquel enjoyed cities and the many activities and opportunities offered by them. She was proud of her Spanish background, was a product of Buenos Aires … and would have been very happy in either Vienna or Paris. Raquel will be missed by all her friends!

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