



LEBOWITZ, Andrea Pinto

July 2, 1941-March 22, 2011

Andrea was warm, intelligent, creative, and a brilliant teacher. She was a superb organizer, a Master Gardener, an avid citizen, and a most wonderful chef, baker and hostess. She was a lover of good music, especially the opera, and of art and photography. She was her own best critic, and supportive of others. She could often be their best critic as well.

She was a founding member of Vancouver Women's Caucus, a member of the Corrective Collective, and co-founder of Simon Fraser University's Women's Studies Program, the first of its kind in Canada.

She taught English and Women's Studies at SFU over a period of 36 years, beginning when SFU first opened. She served on numerous committees and in several administrative positions at the university, including 5 years as Associate Dean of Arts. All who met her were delighted by her political wisdom, her ability to chair meetings, and her ability to get things done.

As a teacher, Andrea was a great raconteur, and had an uncanny ability to encourage even the most uncertain student to contribute ideas, helping to make them clearer and convincing each student that their ideas were quite a bit more intelligent than they might have thought on their own. She could then summarize an hour's discussion and tie all their ideas together in a way that connected clearly and impressively with the work of literature or essay under discussion. Many of her students left her tutelage feeling so much more confident and wiser. They often called her brilliant. She was honoured for her teaching by becoming a recipient of the first annual 3M Excellence in Teaching Award. She brought the same skills to her activity in civic affairs. As a founding member of The Lonsdale Citizens' Association, she was adept at strategizing ways to generate policies that respected and preserved the livability of the neighbourhoods of the City of North Vancouver. Her gardens in North Vancouver and on Hornby Island are works of art.

Andrea was a role model, a mentor and an inspiration for some of the best things we have done. She was courageous and possessed of an indomitable spirit. She will leave a hole in the hearts of many good people.

Andrea leaves her long-time partner, Wayne Wiens, after 43 years of love and respect. She is also survived by her brother, John Pinto, and her greatest friend, Honorée Newcombe. All three, along with her cats, Emma and Lulu, kept vigil over her last few days. She died at home in Wayne's arms. She is predeceased by her father and mother. Andrew and Anne Pinto of Hartford, Connecticut. Those wishing to honour her memory are invited to contribute to the Anne Peters Pinto Memorial Scholarship at SFU, to the Vancouver Opera, or to the Cancer Clinic at Lions Gate Hospital. A memorial service will take place in the near future.