

## In Memory

### Lynn Curtis

April 29, 1947 – Dec. 25, 2023



Lynn Curtis, a well-known artist who lived in Orinda, passed away on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, in Chico, CA. She will be profoundly missed by her many close friends and by her family: husband Kerry; daughter Becky, her husband Paul Vilevac, and their children Jake and Chloe; daughter Lisa, her husband Tom Moore, and their children Spencer and Tyler; and son Chris, his wife Laura, and their children Olivia and Jane.

Not long after Lynn's father, Jack, returned from Army service in Europe in WW2, he and Lynn's mother, Ruth (Scott), made a home in Rydal, PA. Jack and Ruth Walton owned and ran the Scott family's Rydal Flower Gardens for five decades. Ruth Lynn Walton, "Lynn," was born in Abington, PA on April 29, 1947. She grew up spending many hours wandering in the greenhouses and fields. Those familiar with Lynn's artwork will see evidence of her childhood in the images she created during her long career.

After graduation from Abington High School, Lynn studied for a year at Carnegie Tech in Pittsburgh, then transferred to the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia in a joint degree program with the University of Pennsylvania. She met Kerry in 1969 at a party in Philadelphia hosted by one of her art school friends. Kerry and Lynn embarked on a whirlwind romance – they dated, became engaged, got married, and moved to San Francisco – all in five months! They found an apartment across the street from Golden Gate Park, where Lynn was able to renew her wandering among gardens and landscapes. She continued painting and became active in artists' groups.

In 1971, Becky was born in San Francisco, and a search for a "forever home" ended at the house on Overhill Road in Orinda. Lisa was born in 1974 in Berkeley. Lynn combined her painting with the roles of Mom, homemaker, and chief cook (thousands of 7 p.m. meals with fresh ingredients). She joined the Artists' Cooperative in San Francisco and displayed her work in various shows.

In 1980, Kerry was transferred by Bank of America to London, where Lynn found a big home for the family, equipped with an artist's studio and a darkroom. She was thus able to continue her artistic work with only a brief interruption. With Becky and Lisa being bused door-to-door to the American school all day, Lynn was able to resume her creative work, including exploring the museums, galleries, and shops in London. Near the end of the family's stay in London, Chris was born, so they returned home in 1982 with a two-month-old baby in a basket – a family of five.

After her return in 1982 to Orinda, Lynn's artwork naturally took a back seat to being a (wonderful) Mom. In her "spare time," she served as president of San Francisco Women Artists for a year. She sold many paintings through her numerous art exhibitions and participation in East Bay Open Studios. She was also instrumental in starting ballet classes for adults at the community center. Her work over the decades has taken many forms: paintings, drawings, photography, prints, movies, writing, poetry, and curating art shows for various organizations including the Commonwealth Club of California. As one person recently said of Lynn and her art, "If she were a self-promoter, she'd be famous." Well, she certainly was not any kind of self-promoter, being modest and kind. But she *is* famous to the many who loved and admired her.

Lynn was laid to rest on Dec. 30 at Oakmont Memorial Park in Lafayette. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 12 p.m. at the Orinda Community Center. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Parkinson's Foundation or the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

## In Memory

### Margaret Diane Walters



Margaret Diane Walters (Maggie or Margo Hill) passed away in the afternoon of Jan. 3, following a brief and unexpected illness in Walnut Creek, California. Maggie was 77 years old and a loving mother, devoted grandmother as well as an accomplished artist.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, as Margaret Hill, Maggie grew up in Chicago, Illinois, and attended Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. After forming life-long friendships at college, Maggie pursued her interests in French and art, studying in Paris and earning her Masters in Art and Design in London. Maggie settled in England and had two daughters with her husband, Robert Bruce Walters.

In the mid-1990s, Maggie returned to the United States with her daughters, where she settled in California and became intimately involved in the holistic health therapy and art communities. Her involvement in holistic health included work in CranioSacral therapy and massage therapy/touch therapy with Alzheimer's clients, in addition to authoring a book called "Finding the Bloom of the Cactus Generation." With respect to the art community, Maggie was a founding member of the Lafayette Art Gallery and the Moraga Art Gallery, as well as a board member of the Lamorinda Arts Alliance. She participated in many other fine art events in the Lamorinda/San Francisco Bay Area, including ProArts and Open Studios.

Maggie was an avid traveler – visiting Peru, China, Bali, Australia, Tibet, Nepal, Colombia, and Europe, among other destinations. Maggie's interest in other cultures was depicted in her artwork, as it evolved from sketches to watercolors and plein air to oils and acrylics, with still-life and models. Maggie's most recent interest is demonstrated in her work with silk in various mediums, including paintings, coasters, journals, magnets, and scarves, among other items. The vibrancy of the dyes is what drew her to this modified batik style art.

Maggie enjoyed spending her summers at her lake home in Minnesota, close to where her mother grew up in Lisbon, North Dakota. In recent years, Maggie has also been involved in the art community in Minnesota, including the Cormorant Area Art Club and Art of the Lakes in Battle Lake.

In addition to art and travel, Maggie enjoyed spending time with her family, especially with her three grandchildren. Maggie will be remembered as kind, creative, community-centered and family-oriented. Maggie leaves behind her two daughters, Diana Walters and Caroline Walters Schneiderei, her son-in-law Michael Schneiderei, her three grandchildren, Imogen, Oliver, and Lucas, and her dog, Toffee. She will be deeply missed by her family and community.

A memorial for Maggie will be held at St. Stephens Church (66 St Stephens Dr, Orinda, CA) on Feb. 3, at 1 p.m. to be followed by a reception at the Moraga Art Gallery (432 Center St, Moraga).

## In Memory

### Tommy "Tom" Roy Hensley

Nov. 20, 1936 – Jan. 10, 2024



Tommy "Tom" Roy Hensley, cherished husband, loving father and grandfather passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family on Jan. 10. Born on Nov. 20, 1936, in Seminole, Oklahoma, Tom was a beacon of strength and kindness in his community.

Tom's journey of service began with active duty in the United States Navy from 1958 to 1962, a period that shaped much of his character and instilled in him a sense of discipline and commitment.

Following his service, he pursued and obtained a degree in Electrical Engineering from Oregon State University. His academic achievements led him to a fulfilling career with the U.S. Forest Service.

In 1978, Tom helped his wife, Carolie, fulfill her dream of opening a quilt shop in Lafayette, CA. Through hard work and dedication together, they opened The Cotton Patch. After retiring from the Forest Service, they co-founded C&T Publishing. Both companies are still in business today.

Tom loved to play golf and to fish. He was an excellent bridge player. He liked tending to his garden and fruit trees. A dedicated sports fan, he loved the Forty-Niners and Giants. His all-time favorite fan activity was attending his grandkids' football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, and basketball games.

Tom is survived by his beloved wife, Carolie, sons, Tony and Todd, daughters-in-law, Julie and Jennifer, and adored grandchildren Tom, Mark, Will and Emily. His life was a testament to his ability to balance a successful career, a vibrant personal life, and a deep commitment to his family and community.

Friends and family are invited to attend a celebration of Tom's life on Friday, Feb. 2 at 1-4 p.m. at Creekside Club Room, 1010 Golden Rain Road (Rossmoor), Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

## In Memory

### Cecil "Chip" Barnes IV

July 18, 1947 – Jan. 4, 2024



Cecil "Chip" Barnes 76, passed away peacefully, Thursday Jan. 4, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by his wife Jacqueline, son Cecil "Chris" and his sister Marni. He was born in Chicago Illinois in 1947, the oldest of three children of Loretta Van Rie Barnes and Cecil Barnes III. As a young child his family moved to California and Chip spent most of his life in the Bay Area.

On Nov. 12, 1983, Chip married Jacqueline Margaret Hocking in England. Together they lived in San Francisco where their sons were born. In 1992 the family moved to Moraga, California, which Chip called home for the last 32 years. Chip treasured family gatherings, especially the holidays where his love of family was so evident.

From an early age Chip became involved in theater. He found his calling backstage at the Palo Alto Children's Theater, demonstrating an aptitude for creative lighting design and discovering a joy that he would carry with him throughout his life. He was the lighting director and board operator at the theater for the better part of a decade and it is also where he made some of his closest life-long friends.

In 1970, Chip graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Bailey College of Science and Mathematics. He was at the forefront of the emerging wave of computer technology. From there he traded his "hippie beads" for a necktie and went to work at Stanford Research Institute. One day he was informed that the mathematical problems that he was working on were more than theoretical, they were aimed at improving the bombing ranges in Vietnam. After realizing the nature of the work he was doing, he became disillusioned and left the job. Chip went on to have a creative and rewarding career in computer engineering, software programming and systems analysis, including helping Bank of America pioneer their first ATM and online banking platform. Over the years he received many accolades for his ingenious solutions to complicated problems and his patient ability to explain complex processes in an accessible manner.

His open-mindedness and search for understanding led him to travel widely and to learn from every place and every person that he encountered along his path. He was always willing to try something new and wanted to discover things for himself. Chip earned his solo pilot license to fly small planes, was a certified scuba diver and raced his Shields class sailboat in the bay as an active member at the Sausalito Yacht Club. Later in life he was a regular at Burning Man where he loved mixing with the varied types of people who gravitated to that creative utopian experiment. It was there that he also found an appreciative audience for his "Gobbling Heads" computer art animation, an endlessly repeating randomized display that delights in its simplicity and ridiculousness. Chip was also an enthusiastic amateur photographer who always carried his camera with him on his adventures. Two exhibitions of his photographs were staged at the Moraga library as part of their rotating artist series.

Chip was a man who led with his heart and his family was the center of his orbit. He was an amazing husband, father, and brother. He retained lifelong friends and was always eagerly planning trips to go off-roading, biking, camping, or fiddle with electronics. Chip really loved watching his son Cecil "Chris" play Varsity Soccer for Miramonte High School. Chip took it upon himself to film the 2004-2005 season when the team won the DFAL Championship and in 2005-2006 when the team rose to win the NCS Championship. Chip enthusiastically documented the team's accomplishments, one of the many ways which demonstrates his dedication to his family and community. Every morning Chip enjoyed a cup of coffee with his friends at SiSi Caffe in Moraga where he was a loyal customer ever since their opening 25 years ago.

He was curious and adventurous from the get go and many people, friends and strangers alike, were the blessed recipients of his attentive and loving nature. He is survived by his wife of forty years, Jacqueline Barnes, their son Cecil "Chris" Barnes V, his daughter in law Angelica Giannoulatou-Destouni and his sister Marni Barnes. He was preceded in death by his son James and sister Melanie.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in Chip's honor to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

A memorial will take place in Palo Alto on Saturday April 6, 2024, for information please call Marni at 650-326-6866.

## Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to [story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com), and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.