



Lois Eileen Rye

November 3, 1944 - August 9, 2014

Lois passed away unexpectedly at her home on August 7, 2014. She was born in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on November 3, 1944, to Ralph and Eleanor (Rieth) Rye. She graduated from Memorial High School and went on to Eau Claire Technical Institute where she enrolled in secretarial training. She left Eau Claire in 1967 to fulfill a lifelong dream of living in Santa Barbara, driving across the country with a close friend. She found a job at Santa Barbara City College as secretary to Spencer Blickenstaff, who she later married. She continued to work at City College in the Earth and Planetary Sciences Department until her retirement in 2000. After Spencer died in 1985, Lois married Daniel Feeney in 1986, to whom she was married for four years.

A long-time member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lois rejoiced in the Gospel's Grace and freedom, serving faithfully on the Alter Guild and caring for others with compassion and good humor. She very much enjoyed keeping up with the friendships she made during the time she worked at City College through the Retirees Association. She also belonged to the Caregivers Group and was supportive of all the members.

As a talented artist with needlepoint stitchery, she won many prizes for her outstanding and evocative artistry. She was rarely seen without her camera in her hand and loved to share, via emails, the beautiful photographs she took everywhere she went. She was a lifelong traveler who roamed this country and the world, first with her mother, then with Spencer, and later with her friends. With her bubbly personality, open and outgoing manner, and keen interest in people, she made friends everywhere she went. With her warm, generous personality, she could always be counted on to help where needed oftentimes without being asked.

Lois is survived by her sister Carole (John) Thorngate of Livermore, California; nephew John (Yvonne) Thorngate of Napa, California; nieces Fayanne (Mike) Ledgerwood of Birmingham, Alabama, and Sharon (Brian) Kennedy of Santa Barbara; great-niece Rhiannon Ledgerwood of Louisville, Kentucky and great-nephews Ian and William Ledgerwood of Birmingham, Alabama

She is also survived by step-daughters Cynthia Steinheimer of St. George, Utah and Susan (Mark) Pettigrew of Reno, Nevada; step-grandchildren Rebecca Steinheimer of St. George, Utah, Chris Pettigrew of Sahuarita, Arizona and Erin (Jawad) Dacca of Israel; step-great-grandchildren Melissa and Michael Pettigrew of Sahuarita, Arizona, and Lena and Zane Dacca of Israel. Lois also leaves grieving cousins and friends all over the world who will miss her.

Visitation will be held from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Friday, August 29 at Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapel in Santa Barbara. The funeral service will take place at 1:00 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara. Interment will be a Santa Barbara Cemetery immediately following the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Lois's name to Trinity Lutheran Church or Santa Barbara Community College Scholarship Fund would be very much appreciated.

Cemetery Details

Santa Barbara Cemetery

901 Channel Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108
(805) 969-3231

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **29**. 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown
15 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-5145
info@wrhsb.com
<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Funeral Service

AUG **29**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
909 N. La Cumbre Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Tribute Wall

AL

“ It has been over a since I found out about Lois's passing and through my tears I can only see her smiling face. This woman embodied Joy. Out of nowhere she came into my life through my boyfriend John LaFargue who was an Earth Sciences SBCC student. She helped us, shined a light in our lives filled with non stop work and school, and changed who we were. She often showed us the photos from Eau Claire and talked about the dream journey west to California. I never met Spence but she showed me his gravesite. She filled our lives (along with others) with pizza parties, gift certificates to restaurants we would never be able to afford, Stampa Barbara!, and even took me down to meet Judith (her stitching teacher) in Northridge. I would not have made it through college without here. I have fond memories of eating cake & ice cream for breakfast, guiltless reading gossip rags, Christmas and the 1/2 tree, her trying to get me to try on late 70s/early 80s clothes that had me in peels of laughter at how dated it was. Of course now it would be fashionable! She easily kept photo developing places in business for years. I too was a November baby on the 4th. So there was always extra cake for all of us. I know one of her favorite things to do was to bring ice cream out to the students from SBCC when they were on their Death Valley field trip. It was impossible to be dark and gloomy in this woman's presence. She did SO much for so MANY people. I honestly don't think I will ever meet another person with such light and magnificence. I apologize deeply to her, her family, her loved ones that I could not be there in person.



Anna M Lincoln - September 01, 2014 at 01:09 PM

SP

“ I was also born on November 3, 1944 in Eau Claire, WI Lois and I have been good friends since we went to work at the same place in 1964. We always sent each other birthday cards. I will miss all her emails. Once you were her friend she always kept in touch. It does not seem real to me that she is gone. I will miss her dearly. Sharon Paulson



sharon paulson - August 27, 2014 at 11:58 AM