

Roz Portnoy

Roz, who passed away on her 90th birthday, was a true “Returning University Student” herself. She was determined to reach her educational goal after marrying pre-med student Bernard, the love of her life, by completing her undergraduate studies at Syracuse University. Many years later, after raising her two children, she finished her degree and earned a Teacher’s Credential at California State University Los Angeles.

Roz’ passion for teaching was obvious to anyone who knew her. She spent many happy years teaching Kindergarten and First Grade in the inner-city. Her diligent Spanish studies led to her certification as a Bilingual Educator and strengthened her role in teaching bi-lingual children. Also, she was an active member and president of the ORT, an international program devoted to job skills training.

Throughout her working years and after retirement, Roz was an avid volunteer. Her work for the League of Women Voters included fierce opposition and campaigning to defeat Proposition 14, a measure that would nullify the Rumford Fair Housing Act of 1963. Never an athlete, Roz once sprinted across a large parking lot to her car to reprimand a teen who was peeling off her “No on 14” bumper sticker. She was courageous about the causes she believed in!

Roz joined AAUW in 1995. She always took special care as a hostess, enthusiastically welcoming AAUW members from several Book Discussion and Poetry groups to her home over the years. Her favorite event was the annual Literary Luncheon since she was an avid reader, and eagerly participated in discussions.

Roz was a gentle and elegant lady to all who knew her, and most of all, a loyal and honest friend. We will miss her.