



### **Gerda Koppel**

12-13-1924 to 11-6-2015

Gerda was born in Hannover, Germany where she lived until age 10 when she was sent to school in Villars, Switzerland. So she grew up speaking German and French. (Along the way, she has also picked up Dutch, Italian, Spanish and English.) Her family arrived in San Francisco in 1937 where she attended Lowell High School and then UC Berkeley where she majored in foreign languages. At UC Berkeley she met her husband, who became a lawyer and served in the Army in Europe in WWII. Gerda became a paralegal and worked in a law firm in San Francisco. After the war, they lived in San Francisco for five years but then settled in Millbrae where they raised three children.

Her avocations were tennis (she was a ranked USTA senior player) and bridge, which she continues to play here. Her children all live in the Bay Area and have provided her with four grandchildren. Her children and one grandson all hold advanced degrees from UC Berkeley. Gerda has been widowed for 18 years, but her family gathers often to celebrate family events and holidays. She enjoys cruises and also the trips she has taken with UC Berkeley alumni. Her favorites were to Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel, and the UCB/Gump Research Station in Tahiti. She left her home of 52 years to move to SRC.