



**Lorel Lu Kay**

**April 9, 1926 – January 9 2013**

Lorel Lu grew up in Westwood, Los Angeles. She went to University High where her valedictorian speech signaled a theme of enduring importance to her with its title "Science with a Heart." Lorel Lu graduated Magna Cum Laude from UC Berkeley with a degree in Chemistry before continuing her graduate education at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. After graduation there, she returned to Berkeley and became an integral part of Prof. M. Calvin's research team at UCB. She was a co-author with Prof. Calvin on the seminal publications that were cited when Calvin was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1961) for their earlier work unlocking the secrets of photosynthesis.

Lorel Lu had a rare ability to bridge the span between science and art throughout her life. First as a scientist but also as an accomplished artist, writer and humanitarian. Her steady support of equity frequently turned to social action, as when she campaigned against discriminatory housing practices while still a young mother. After retiring to Mendocino in 1991, she served as a CASA (court appointed special advocate) volunteer advocating for abused and neglected children. She also tutored disadvantaged high school students on the North Coast, and after moving to SRC in 2004 volunteered in an elementary school classroom helping children with their reading skills. Lorel was also active in the League of Women Voters.

Her love for learning extended into her senior years here at SRC. Besides constantly auditing classes in a variety of topics next door at West Valley College, she was a regular, and the "senior", member of her beloved West Valley College sculpture classes and was still creating bronzes at age 87. After 60 glorious years of marriage with Eric, whom she met on the UCB Campus in 1952, Lorel Lu died at SRC in January 2013. Although exceedingly humble throughout her life, Lorel Lu was an inspiration to all who knew her, including her 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 4 great grand children.

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