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Vera Papermaster Obituary

Dr. Vera PAPERMASTER Age 65, died on October 5, 2002 after a brief but valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. Vera was born on September 4, 1937 in Szekesfehervar, Hungary to Maria and George Horvath. She was an active member of the Hungarian resistance to Soviet domination, later making a daring escape to Austria following the uprising of 1956. She pursued a pre-medical university education in Switzerland and then immigrated to the United States in 1960. Vera went on to earn her

B.S. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of California at Berkeley in 1971. While there, she met and married Dr. Ben Papermaster. They moved to Buffalo, New York, and had a daughter, Adrienne, in 1968. Later that year they were joined by Ben's three children from his previous marriage. Continuing with her scientific training, Vera earned her M.S. in Biology at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNYAB) in 1973, and went on to earn her Ph.D. in Experimental Pathology at SUNYAB in 1976. Vera pursued a dynamic, exciting and productive career in primary research for immunology and experimental pathology driven by her strong desire to make advances in the prevention and treatment of cancer and multiple infectious diseases. She made significant contributions through her work in conjunction with several research institutions including Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and the University of Washington in Seattle, until her retirement in 2001. She was an esteemed researcher and published over a dozen papers in the fields of immunology and pathology. Vera was an active member of University Unitarian Church, where she initiated and participated in many groups. She was deeply committed to her work with the Partner Church Committee, which supports a Unitarian church and community in Transylvania. She also took great joy in her participation in the Intergenerational Choir. Vera was avidly engaged with life and passionately loved by her friends and family. She will be remembered for her generosity of spirit, her sense of humor, her intellect and curiosity, and her love of animals and nature. In true Hungarian fashion, she loved a good debate and a good party, and she had a fabulous sense of style. Vera is survived by her daughter, Adrienne (Gertie) of Federal Way, Washington; her stepchildren Gail (Dave), Steve (Kathy), and Mark (Kathy); and their children Aaron, Sarah, Jacob, Hannah, Justin, Danielle and Joshua, all of Austin, Texas. She is profoundly missed by family and friends. Vera's Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, October 10, at 4 pm, at University Unitarian Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Swedish Hospice Services at 5701 - 6th Ave S., Suite 504, Seattle, WA. 98108.

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