

Remembering Margie Snively

Margaret “Margie” Snively died on the evening of November 9, 2018, at the age of 71. Here is her life remembered.

Margie was born to H. Norman Snively and Marion R. (Bobette) Snively of Scotia, New York. She spent her childhood in Scotia, graduating high school in 1965. She then began her quest to see America, and ultimately, the world. Her early days as a caretaker of young children in Scotia translated into a high-level career in nursing as an adult, with children her most beloved patients.

Margie earned her nursing degree from University of Oregon School in 1969. She and her friends worked in Portland, OR, Burlington, VT, and Seattle, WA, before she settled in Morgan Hill, CA, in 1979, working at Kaiser-Permanente as a nursing supervisor. While living in Morgan Hill, she became cherished “Aunt Margie” to her local family and volunteered for hundreds of hours at Henry Coe State Park.

In 1991, she joined the Peace Corps as a volunteer at the Ministry of Health in Botswana, Africa. For two years, she worked at the National Health Institute in Lobatse, both teaching nursing and upgrading curriculum, as well as participating in a community AIDS task force. She returned to the US inspired to pursue public health. Enrolling at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she earned first a master’s degree in public health, then a master’s in nursing, completing her coursework and training to become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Following her passion for underserved populations, she went on to complete her PhD in maternal and child health in 1998.

Margie then returned to California, working for Kaiser in the Sacramento area as a nurse practitioner in the pediatric surgery and GI departments until her retirement in 2014. Besides caring for children in her professional capacity, Margie’s greatest joy was being with her family, which stretched from California to Montana and east to Pennsylvania, New York and Florida.

Throughout her life, she always took time to seek out natural splendors both near and far. These included a summer in Glacier National Park as a college student, hiking in the Grand Tetons, climbing Kilimanjaro, trekking in Tibet, bird watching in the Amazon, and exploring the many wonders of the American West. Her knowledge of flowers and birds truly spanned the world.

In 2014 she retired and relocated to Morgan Hill, devoting her energy to others. She was the VP of programming for the local chapter of AAUW (American Association of University Women). She was a member of Toastmasters, supporter of the public library and the ACLU and served on the Landscape Committee of her homeowners’ association. She was involved in Showing Up for Racial Justice. Through Gamma Alpha, she volunteered helping children learn to read. She



constantly looked out for others, caring for her nieces' children and driving them and the elderly to events and appointments. Passionate about politics and an ardent supporter of the democratic process, she worked the polls on Election Day. Her loss leaves a void in our community.

Her friends describe her as a diligent and tireless supporter of many good causes, with a special passion for the youth in the community. She was a very caring and loving person with a passion for social justice. She was full of love and empathy, standing up for women, social justice and working tirelessly on behalf of human rights.

She was preceded in death by her parents Norm and Bobette Snively and her brother Bob and sister-in-law Sandy Snively of Morgan Hill, CA.

She is survived by three brothers and sisters-in-laws: John and Carolyn Snively of Missoula, MT, Richard and Trudi Snively of Lititz, PA, and Don and Rita Snively of Scotia, NY. She was much loved by her six nieces/nephews and nine grandnieces/nephews. She also leaves behind her precious dog Ava and her tortoise Patches.