



MARTHA HOLMAN PLENDER

Passed away peacefully on May 23, 2008, in Palm Springs after a short illness caused by lymphoma. She was born Martha Mary on Oct. 10, 1939 in St. Louis, MO, the only child of Dr. Charles and Barbara Holman.

Martha received her early education at Visitation Academy in St. Louis and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in English at Marquette University, a master's degree from Northwestern University and a doctorate from University of California San Diego. She taught in high schools in St. Louis, Oakland and Long Beach. After receiving her Ph.D, she taught at the University of California Riverside where she became the co-director of the Inland Empire division of the State Writing Project, and taught at California State University at San Bernardino. Her students held her in high regard and always left her classes with new appreciation of literature, from Shakespeare to Steinbeck.

With her zest for life and the arts, Martha wrote poetry, attended theatre and opera, and loved art exhibits. Always close to her heart was the Palm Springs Desert Museum where she served as docent of special exhibits for many years.

Martha had a taste for travel and adventure, but she always considered both Encinitas and Palm Springs her home. In Encinitas, she loved the ocean view in the afternoon, and in Palm Springs, she loved the snow-capped mountain view from her patio with family, a glass of good wine and some well-aged cheese. At home, she was an accomplished cook and enjoyed preparing a fine meal for her many friends.

Always a busy and accomplished person, her lasting legacy is her connection with her family, friends and students. She maintained close relationships with people from her childhood to her recent acquaintances.

She leaves her husband Ralph "Bud" Plender, son Charles, stepson Jeff, stepdaughter Lisa Peppmuller and granddaughter Brianna.

She will always be loved and never forgotten.

A Mass will be conducted at the Mission San Luis Rey in Oceanside off Highway 76 on Friday, May 30 at 1 p.m. There will be a viewing on Saturday, May 31, from 9 to 10 a.m. at Oceanside Mortuary, 602 S. Coast Highway, Oceanside, followed by a graveside ceremony at 11 a.m. at Mission San Luis Rey. Memorial contributions may be sent to Palm Springs Desert Museum, 1010 Museum Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92264.