

# In Memoriam

PCC Retirees Association  
June 2024

## Retirees Association Bids Farewell to Many of its Members in This Section

### Hall of Fame Softball Coach Sandi Iverson

Retired softball head coach Sandi Iverson, a member of the Pasadena City College Sports Hall of Fame, passed away on due to complications from cancer. Iverson had a magnificent 27-year career as Lancers' softball coach (1979- 2006), winning six conference championships and leading her teams to the SoCal Regionals in 15 of her final 16 seasons.

She put together a 562-486-4 over-all record, coaching more than 1,000 games. She held the record for most wins ever by a PCC coach in all sports until current women's basketball coach Joe Peron broke the mark in February of last year. Iverson was inducted into the PCC Hall of Fame in 2018.

Her teams won Metropolitan Conference titles in 1980-81 and 1985-86, then a third back-to-back championship run in the South Coast Conference in 1990-91. In 10 other years, her teams finished in second place. Fourteen times she recorded 20-plus win seasons.

In 1985, she was named the William Russell JC National Coach of the Year. Four times she was selected Region Coach of the Year and nine times was a conference Coach of the Year. In 2001, she earned the NCFA Coaching Staff of the Year award.

In her final season in 2006, the Lancers recorded the second most victories (31) in the program's history. The team nearly made it into the State Championship Tournament, winning a pair of playoff games before losing an elimination contest to eventual state champion Cypress in the Southern California Regionals. During the regular season, Iverson's Lancers were ranked No. 19 in the state and ran off an exciting 13- game winning streak.

Upon her retirement in 2007, Iverson received the prestigious PCC Risser Outstanding Teacher Award. In 2010, Sandi

was inducted into the State's Fastpitch Coach Association Hall of Fame.

Kim Maxwell, Chris Zboril, Jennifer Fish, Gina Punaro, and Sarah Sherman are all Lancers players who played for Iverson now also enshrined into the PCC Sports Hall of Fame.

"One of the greatest gifts Sandi had been the ability to push a player to greatness," said Sherman, an All-American and All-State pitcher/hitter from 2004-2005. "She practiced tough love and sharing her intellect of the game, expecting 110 percent from you

because she knew you were capable. I really can't say enough about what she did for me, not only as a player but as a person, a woman for that matter, venturing off into society as a young adult. Using aspects of the sport and how it translates to the real world was something she helped instill in me."

Iverson was instrumental in continuing the tradition of the Elizabeth Jensen Scholarships (began in 1958 by Jensen, a then long-time women's athletic director and member of the PCC Court of Champions) that are presented annually to PCC student-athletes.

A resident of Long Beach, Iverson followed PCC softball teams as an occasional fan after her retirement. She threw out the first pitch in one of her last appearances at a PCC softball game at Robinson Park in 2020.

*Sandi Iverson threw out the ceremonial first pitch in 2020 and is seen here with another former coach and current Kinesiology, Health & Athletics chair Monica Tantlinger*

### **Beth Wells-Miller Board Member**

Beth Wells-Miller, 88, of Arcadia, California, passed away after a long history with dementia. A graduate of USC, Beth was born Sarah Elizabeth Karpe on September 19, 1933 in Pasadena to her mother Lucille Karpe, as were Beth's brother, Phil, and sister, Dori. Beth was a longtime elementary school teacher at Noyes and Loma Alta elementary schools in Altadena.

She later ran for the Pasadena City College board of trustees, and she represented Arcadia constituents for 16 years.

She is survived her second husband, Joseph (Joe) Miller and her two children, Steve and Wendy Wells, and three grand-children, Steven, Alyson and Brooke Wells.

### **English Professor Lee Reinhartsen**

Lee LaTourette Reinhartsen was born on Sept. 21, 1945 on Staten Island, New York to Harry and Elizabeth Reinhartsen. Lee had a younger sister, Hollis, who was born three years after he was.

Lee was an energetic child who enjoyed being the center of attention. Lee always got good grades in school because learning came easy to him. He went to Public School #28 in New York. And after the family moved from New York to Anaheim, he attended Anaheim High School and then transferred to Hemet Senior High School.

Lee enrolled at Fullerton College after graduation, but he was drafted when he was 19 years old. He chose to join the Navy.

Although his test scores qualified him to join the submarine service, he was too tall. Candidates cannot be taller than 6'1". Lee served in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1970 and worked

in anti-submarine warfare at a tiny top-secret base on the coast of Big Sur, California. When he was discharged from Navy, he received his bachelor's degree in journalism from California State University Humboldt. He managed to earn top grades while playing on the university's basketball team. Lee earned his master's degree in mass communication and

English from California State University, Northridge. Lee loved basketball, surfing, golf, baseball, football, wrestling— everything sports. He also found time to play billiards. He also loved nature and the outdoors.

After working on a newspaper in Northern California, Lee was hired to teach journalism at Pasadena City College. He spent seven years in the journalism program teaching and advising the sports section of the *Courier*. He would have stayed in the journalism department if it wasn't for the college's budget crunch that led to layoffs for the first time in its history.

Luckily, Lee was able to move into the English department where he spent the remainder of his career as a professor of English and ESL.

The move was a big loss for journalism and a wonderful addition to the English department. Lee co-authored a workbook for ESL students with Mike Riherd titled "Language Through Literature." It is still available on Amazon.

When he moved to Southern California for his job at PCC, he was introduced to Linda in Idyllwild by his best friend George. He and Linda married in Las Vegas in 1979, and they were together for 18 years before she lost her battle with breast cancer. Linda had two kids, so he learned to become a father quickly.

After Linda passed away, Lee was fortunate to fall in love again after he was introduced to Trudy by his Pasadena City College colleague Mikki Bolliger. Lee married Trudy at the Santa Barbara Mission in 1999, and they were together for nearly 25 years. Lee was a family man and truly dedicated himself to those whom he loved. And he loved his four kids and adored his eight grandkids. His loss leaves a hole in the hearts of the many people who loved him.

## **Richard Jones, Supervisor of Printing Services**

*By Doug Haines*

It is with deep sadness that the family of Richard Allen Jones announced that he has passed away after a two-year battle with colon cancer. He was 82.

Born in Chicago, IL, his family relocated to Alhambra, CA when he was very young. He attended Mark Keppel and Alhambra High Schools. After graduation, Richard worked at the "Original Hat" restaurant. He also served in the United States Navy where he received an honorable discharge.

Based on his experience with the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group, Richard was hired at PCC as a layout technician for the *PCC Courier*. Shortly thereafter he served as

adjunct faculty, teaching numerous prepress production courses. During his tenure at PCC, Richard's assignments included several years as Supervisor of Printing Services and then Supervisor of Office Services. He was always an excellent resource for advice and solutions for many of the college's printing needs.

During his time at PCC, Richard was an active member in numerous local and national associations: the Los Angeles Club of Printing House

Craftsmen, Inc., the Los Angeles Lithographer's Club and the Association of College and University Printers. In all of these professional printing organizations, Richard served as President, National Convention Chairman and on their Board of Directors. Through his involvement with these organizations, the PCC Printing Department gained national support and recognition. After retirement from PCC, Richard continued his volunteer work in the organizations he was involved with throughout his career. He relocated to Spring, TX several years before moving to Carson City, NV.

Richard was preceded in death by his brother Chuck in 2010. He is survived by his three grown sons, Kevin, Richard, Jr. and John, and his daughter Stephanie who lives in Southern California.

Richard will always be remembered for his love for his family, his cherished friendships with all who knew him and his sometimes-crazy humor that kept us all laughing. We'll truly miss you Jonesy.

## **Eileen Snyder, Learning Center**

*By John Wood*

Eileen Snyder made a significant contribution of her time and talents to Pasadena City College. She worked full-time for 30 years in the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) from 1990 -2020, and was an adjunct ESL teacher for four years prior to that. She was devoted to the College, especially to the many students who came through the LAC to strengthen their learning skills.

She worked the evening and Saturday shift all those years and was very reliable and capable in that role, being the only full-time staff on hand during most of her hours. Eileen attended UC Santa Barbara on a full scholarship where she majored in French and minored in Teaching English as a Second Language. She graduated with a BA in 1981, adding a Master's degree in ESL in 1982.

At that point she decided to travel the world for a while. She lived in Japan, France, and Morocco for extended periods of time. She taught ESL and enjoyed the cuisine and culture in each of these countries.

She learned to speak Japanese, French, and Arabic, and could also speak Spanish fluently. This gave her a tremendous advantage when assisting the many foreign students at the College.

When she returned to America she worked as a part-time faculty member at both Glendale and Citrus colleges, as well as at PCC. When she was hired fulltime, she hung up her teaching robe to focus on the many students who populated the LAC.

She was an active member of three churches in the L.A. area where she taught Sunday School.

Eileen was fun loving. She laughed easily, enjoyed ethnic food, and loved studying the complexities of language. She traversed the hiking trails in our local mountains and skated along the sidewalks at the beach.

She retired in 2020 after being diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. As her health declined, she decided to sell her condominium in Glendale and move near her mother in Cottonwood, Arizona. She developed Covid-19 during a hospital stay there, and due to her advanced Parkinson's, could not recover. Eileen died on 2/6/2024.

## **Bob McLean Economics Professor**

Bob McLean, professor of economics, passed away one day before his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He had melanoma that metastasized all over his body and brain. It was quick.

His PCC family was not in the know, and Alan Lamson, former president of the Retirees Association, did a lot of detective work to find out about his good friend.

Bob was part of the Division since the 1970s. He primarily taught Economics, but he also taught the Asian History class in the early days, as he had served in Vietnam.

He grew up in Monrovia where his father was a veterinarian. He also raised his two children as a single father in Monrovia. Then he also helped raise a stepdaughter.

Bob, just like so many of us, was upset when our then Superintendent would not allow more faculty on the Dean's Hiring Committee.

But Bob did something! He turned his indignance to working on the Academic Senate's hiring policy. He also served on the Academic Senate.

Bob served the PCC community in many ways, but you would never learn it from him.

He just did what needed to be done. He gave and gave and gave.

He was admired by all who knew him. According to his son and daughter in Portland, his friends and colleagues at PCC were his second family.

## **Elaine Komai, Police Services**

Elaine Hisae Komai, 72, passed away peacefully on July 21, 2023. She was born in Santa Monica and lived in Temple City during her career at PCC.

After graduating from high school, she enrolled as a student at Pasadena City College, where she earned her Associate's Degree and eventually found work in the school's Facilities and Safety/Police Services departments.

After being employed at PCC for over 30 years, she took advantage of early retirement to travel, contribute financially to many charities, and keep track of her favorite sports teams. Elaine was predeceased by her parents, Hiroshi and Lillie (Yamato) Komai. She is survived by her brother, Dale Shigeru Komai, and other relatives.

## **Harry Hawakara, Counselor Emeritus**

Harry Kawahara, a retired counselor and a member of the Retirees Association Board for many years, passed away in May at the age of 92. He was a Nisei male born in San Leandro. He grew up there where his father ran a farm.

During WWII, he and his family were unjustly moved to the Tanforan Assembly Center in California, and then to the Tozap concentration camp in Utah from 1942-1945. Harry was 10 years old at the time. After being released from the camp, he moved with his family to Salt Lake City for a year before returning to San Leandro.

He said in an article for Staying Connected in 2020, "the camp was in a remote section of the desolate desert that was very hot in the summer and very cold in the winter with nasty dust storms." He said it was like a prison with armed guards. It was hard for a child to figure out what they were doing there when they had done nothing wrong. They lived in makeshift

barracks and were fed basic spartan meals. He said, our food can best be described as army food.

He said, "this incarceration experience had a crushing blow to my awareness of who I was. This event happened 78 years ago, but I still feel the sting."

Harry graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Political Science. He also graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Harry established Asian American Studies courses at Muir High School and PCC. He was part of a team that taught the first Asian American history courses at PCC. He also helped diversify PCC's staff and faculty and acted as a mentor to many. He served on the Academic Senate and numerous committees on campus.

He also was the founding president of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Employees. He served as president until he retired. After he retired, he served on the Retirees Association Board.

Harry was also involved in the redress movement for the 120,000 Japanese citizens confined to internment camps during WWII.

## **Robert Heckman, PCC's Most Talented, Inspirational Music Instructor**

Robert Earl Heckman passed away at the age of 94 on April 7, 2023. He began teaching in the Music Department at Pasadena City College in the early 1960s. He diligently worked full time until eye problems forced him to take an early retirement in 1989, at the age of 60.

As a college student, he pursued a double major in Music and French. In the late 1950's he taught courses in French, Choir and General Music at Eliot Junior High School in the Pasadena Unified School District.

When he began teaching at PCC, he directed the large choirs and also taught piano courses. He also directed the Madrigal Singers, a select group dedicated primarily to the demanding and intricate music of the Renaissance period.

Robert taught all levels of Music Theory, Harmony, Musicianship and Counterpoint. He is remembered as an instructor having high standards for his students, especially in the areas of Music History and Form & Analysis. A brilliant pianist, he studied privately for many years with Ann Eachus, a well-known instructor of classical piano in the Los Angeles area. He utilized his remarkable pianistic abilities by coaching and accompanying gifted PCC singers and instrumentalists for almost 30 years.

Students that were fortunate to have performed with Mr. Heckman as their accompanist remember those experiences as life changing. A hands-on instructor, Mr. Heckman could be found almost every day helping students in the Music Lab with their homework and musical projects. As students worked toward public performance, he provided incredibly detailed information about the composers and how they were influenced by the culture of their time.

Robert's knowledgeable input helped immeasurably as students prepared to perform publicly. He is remembered as a dedicated colleague by former PCC music instructors Mary Hense and Betty Oka. He was incredibly thoughtful, extremely well prepared and always ready to contribute whatever was necessary to help a colleague in any way that he could.

In retirement, Robert lived a quiet life at his home in Sierra Madre. He enjoyed his beautiful Japanese garden and beloved Koi Pond. Also, he would frequently attend live performances with his close group of friends and former students. He loved going to

symphonic concerts, operas and dramatic plays presented throughout the Southern California area.

He remained a dedicated friend with Camille Hayes whom he had met as a young student while studying with Ann Eachus. In their later years, they called each other daily to make sure all was well. Robert remained a dedicated close friend and confidant to Mary, Betty, Camille and many others until the end of his life. To all who knew and worked with Robert Heckman, his legacy is that he will be forever remembered as a very important mentor who touched the lives of many students and colleagues.

Robert Heckman was one of the most talented and inspirational instructors to have taught in the Music Department at Pasadena City College.

## **Edmund Mizia, Facilities**

Edmund Anthony Mizia passed away on June 20, 2020 with family at his side. He was 92 years old. HE was born on Sept. 17, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois to Frank and Veronica Mizia, Edmund was one of four boys and one sister.

He had many mischievous adventures growing up around Lake Michigan. Edmund served in the army as a military policeman in Germany and France following WWII. Edmund met his beloved Rosemary Borgia on the 4th of July 1950. They were married for 66 years at the time of Rosemary's passing in 2018.

He was proud of the children they raised. together. Edmund was a member of Annunciation Church and the Italian Catholic Federation Branch 218 at Holy Angels Church in Arcadia.

Edmund worked in facilities at PCC. He was working in maintenance when he retired after 24 years at the college.

Edmund is survived by his children Robert Mizia, Diane Cranor (Jeff), Susann McDaniel and William Mizia (Joan). He was Gramps to grandchildren Patrick Cranor (Amy), Collin Cranor (Samantha), Leigh Mary Cranor and Andrew McDaniel (Erin). He was Great Gramps to Cole Cranor and Aden Cranor.

## **Mark Hayden, Amateur Radio Buff, Taught Math and Science**

Mark Hayden, N7YLA (formerly KF8DSA) was an amateur radio operator for most of his career at PCC. He taught math, science and business for 37 years. When he retired in 2006, he calculated that he had taught more than 12,000 students during his time at the college.

He passed away in Port Orchard, WA where he moved after he retired. Mark's first love was amateur radio. He was a member of the Pasadena Radio Club and the American

Radio Relay League Volunteer Examiner. He was also a member of the Glendora Emergency Response Communications. He also belonged to the National Weather Service in Oxnard as a certified Skywarn Observer. He also introduced students and staff to amateur radio. Mark had degrees in Meteorology, Biotechnology, Biology and Chemistry.

## **Adele Tingey Taught Dance and PE**

Adele Tingey passed away peace-fully at her daughter's home after celebrating her 103rd birthday with friends only two weeks before.

Adele was born in 1919 to Mormon parents in Salt Lake City, Utah, when Prohibition went into effect and the 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote. Raised in Salt Lake, she graduated from University of Utah, then married Allan S. Tingey in 1940. They were married 61 years, and they raised two children together.

Adele was an associate professor of physical education and modern dance. A life-long learner, she earned three master's degrees.

After retiring from teaching, she and Allan bought and managed Newport Beach Travel Agency, and then they traveled the world.

In the early 90s, she reinvented herself by taking finance/stock market classes to become a daytime trader being her own broker. Each year she said she profited more than she ever had working as a teacher.

When her husband, Allan, died in 2001, she moved to Salt Lake to be with her friends/family. When all her friends passed away, she moved to Grants Pass to be near her daughter. At age 100, she gave up driving and moved into Toni's home.

She was playing duplicate bridge until COVID caused the club to shut down. Up until March of this year she took the warm pool "Strengthen" class at the gym 2-3 times a week.

After class she would swim four lengths in the pool, then enjoy the hot tub.

Adele attributes her longevity to the following: exercise, a natural diet, a positive/grateful attitude, a good network of family/friends, no prescription drugs, good genes and oh yes...alcohol (preferably Canadian whiskey)!

Her son Jess (aka Allan III) died in 2020 of a heart attack. Adele is survived by her daughter, Toni Richardson and, her grandson Christian Gladwell and four beautiful great grandchildren who live in North Carolina.

## **Linda Handelman Philosophy**

Dr. Linda Handelman was an associate professor of philosophy at PCC.

She spent many years successfully developing The Philosopher Citizen Institute, an organization devoted to demonstrating how to use the discipline of philosophy to help busy, caring citizens deal with today's complex social issues.

Dr. Handelman's research and writing focus on rebuilding philosophy as a home for holistic integrative thinking. She did that by highlighting contributions of American philosophy and Eastern thought.

## **Ruth Gabriele Silten, Holocaust Survivor**

Ruth Gabriele Silten taught at PCC for almost 18 years. While at the college, few knew that he was a survivor of the Holocaust.

Ruth wrote several books about her experiences. "Unraveling the Torments of My Life," "Is the War Over? Postwar Years of a Child Survivor of the Holocaust." and "Between Two Worlds: Autobiography of a Child Survivor of the Holocaust" are just a few of the books she wrote about her experiences during the war.

The Holocaust Encyclopedia also has a section on Ruth and her family.

Ruth was the only child of Jewish parents living in the German capital of Berlin. Her grandfather owned a pharmacy and a pharmaceuticals factory, where Gabriele's father also made his living.

In 1938 the Nazis forced Ruth's grandfather to sell his factory and pharmacy for very little money to an «Aryan» German. After that, her father decided they should move to Amsterdam where it was safer for Jews. She was 5 years old and wanted to stay in Berlin. She didn't understand why she had to leave her toys and friends. In Amsterdam Ruth had to learn a whole new language when she began elementary school, but she soon began to make new friends there.

In May 1940 Germany invaded the Netherlands. Ruth remembers being frightened seeing the German troops march into the city. When she went to school, she had to wear a yellow Jewish star, and she couldn't play with her Christian friends anymore. When she was 9, her family was deported to a camp in the eastern Netherlands called Westerbork. There, during the day while her parents worked, Ruth learned to steal things to barter for food. A year later Ruth and her family were sent to the Theresienstadt ghetto. In the ghetto she was hungry all the time.

Twelve-year-old Gabriele and her parents were liberated from Theresienstadt in May 1945. That June, the Silten family returned to Amsterdam, where they resettled. When Ruth retired from PCC, she spent her time writing poetry.

## **Margaret Kolberg**

Margaret Kolberg, a retired instructor at Pasadena City College, died at the age of 99. Margaret spent 21.78 years teaching at the college.

She was a native of Wisconsin, youngest of three siblings and a loving mother to three children of her own.

Margaret leaves behind her son, William, and daughter-in-law, Lynn, and her daughter, Jean, and grandson, David, as well as 14 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbur, and daughter, Gretchen. Margaret was buried in her hometown of Pardeeville, Wisconsin.

## **Myrtle Osberg, CEC and PCC**

21.78 years teaching at the college. She was a native of Wisconsin, youngest of three siblings and a loving mother to three children of her own.

Margaret leaves behind her son, William, and daughter-in-law, Lynn, and her daughter, Jean, and grand-son, David, as well as 14 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wilbur, and daughter, Gretchen. Margaret was buried in her hometown of Pardeeville, Wisconsin.

Myrtle Osberg was born in Fairfax, Minnesota where she lived until she graduated from high school in 1935.

At that time the family moved to Anoka, and Myrtle went to beauty school and became a hair stylist. She worked in a salon in Minneapolis until she met and married Harvey in 1941 in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1942 they moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where Harvey worked for the Corp of Engineers until he enlisted in the Navy in December 1942.

During WWII Myrtle worked in a munitions plant making bullets for the guns of U.S. Servicemen.

In 1946 Harvey was discharged in California, they decided to stay and chose the Los Angeles area. Myrtle worked for the phone company until they built their first home and began raising their children.

As a child Myrtle loved to play with paper dolls and design clothes for her dolls. She designed the dress her mother made for her high school graduation. She also learned to play the piano. Music and sewing became life-long interests that she nurtured and shared with others.

Myrtle's love of designing & sewing led her to take special training classes so she could teach sewing through adult education. While teaching she took additional classes in tailoring, pattern design, draping and fitting.

She received her Vocational Trade and Industrial Teaching Credential from UCLA in 1973. She was very proud of the instructional book she wrote, "Designing Through Draping," which became part of UCLA's library.

She finished her teaching career at Pasadena City College.

**James Kingman taught history in the Social Sciences Division.**

**Larry Pham spent 22.75 years at the college.**

**Pearl Chen worked for the college for 33.56 years.**

**Veronica Martin worked on campus for 29.8 years.**

**Edgar Nandkishore served at PCC for 19.76 years.**

**Glenna Baldwin worked 28.46 years at PCC.**

**Derek Hansen-Moller worked at the college for 30.88 years.**

**Don Williams worked as the supervisor of Office Services**

**Ramona Nale spent 18.6 years working at PCC.**

**Constance Chase worked at the college for 14.68 years.**

**Joe Herzog worked at PCC for 17.33 years.**

**Anita Moore taught at PCC for 12.03 years.**

**Addie Mae Tomelin retired after working 17 years at the college.**

The following individuals passed away, but we were unable to even find a photograph for them. All we have are the names to mark their passing. Some of the people in this issue died months or even years ago, but we were just given the information. We can only keep our information current if friends or relatives tell us in a timely manner.

**Martha Bergus**

**James Tuedio**

**Gerald Matta**

**Bruce Wilson**

**Margaret Zalter**

### ***WHY THE DIFFERENCES?***

You may have noticed that some of the people in this memorial edition have only photos and names while others have lengthy obituaries. We tried so hard to find information on every person who passed away, but it became an almost impossible task.

We spent weeks contacting the college, friends and families, but we could not find the information that we needed. We even delayed the printing of the newsletter hoping we could provide each person with an article they deserve. Unfortunately, the information we were promised never came.