



## LoErna P. Simpson

September 12, 1939 - October 13, 2018

LoErna Charlene Koch Palmer Simpson, born September 12 1939, peacefully passed away from complications of Alzheimer's disease on October 13 2018 in Albany Oregon Evergreen Hospice House.

LoErna was born September 12, 1939 to Ernest and Lola Koch in Newton, Kansas. She graduated from Sedgewick High School (Sedgewick, KS) in 1957. She obtained a bachelor's degree at Friends University (Wichita, KS), followed with a Master's degree in Clothing and Textiles Education from Kansas State University in 1963. As a single parent, LoErna then completed a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in 1981 at Texas Women's University (Denton, TX) in Textiles, Clothing and Textile Science. She spent time as an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky, Oregon State University, and Bassist College (OR). She was published many times in peer-reviewed publications.

LoErna married Thomas Harold Palmer in 1963. She and Tom had three children; Laura (1966), Larry (1968) and Tammy (1974). In 1983, she married James E. Simpson in Lexington Kentucky, adding 3 adult step-children (Jeannie, Greg and Remy) to the family.

Her international travels included annual summer-long visits to Oman or Egypt to visit Egyptian-American grandchildren Mahassan, Raslan and Sumayah. Never missing an opportunity, add-on excursions would then take her and Jim to India, Thailand, China, Switzerland, Russia, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Iran, Iraq and several other countries.

LoErna's long-standing passion was textiles, quilting and international hand-woven rugs. She was known as "The Rug Lady" in Corvallis, Oregon for the quality Persian rugs that she obtained for yearly rug sales.

LoErna was a strong Methodist, with progressive and accepting views of people. She was proud to have served First United Methodist Church in Corvallis Oregon on many local and state committees. She was part of the congregation that supported refugee families,

and growing into a Reconciling Congregation.

She had a passionate interest in peaceful activism. She practiced, lived, rallied, and supported her beliefs with action. She either spearheaded or actively participated in the following:

Corvallis Raging Grannies, United Methodist Oregon-Idaho Holy Land Task Force, Pinwheels for Peace (Corvallis, for International Day of Peace), Amnesty International (Corvallis) letter writing campaigns, Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA), and other Peace and Social Justice causes.

Passing before her is her mother and father, Ernest Koch and Lola Basore Koch of Sedgewick Kansas. She is survived by her younger brother, John Koch, of Garland Texas. She is also survived by her children Laura Welch (husband, Scott) in West Virginia, Larry Palmer (wife, Beth) in Houston Texas, and Tammy Palmer in Albany Oregon; and her step-children Jeannie Samdani in Lyndon Kentucky and Remy Simpson in Lexington Kentucky. LoErna has 5 grandchildren: college students Connie Palmer and Mitchell Palmer (Houston Texas); Mahassan Godar (Rineyville Kentucky), Raslan (Rus) Godar (Corvallis Oregon), Sumayah Godar (Lyndon, Kentucky).

A Celebration of Life will be held 10:00 am, Saturday December 15 at the First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Ave, Corvallis Oregon 97330. A celebration reception will follow in the church library.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in LoErna's honor to a favorite cause, "Faith in Action Teams", at the First United Methodist Church, Corvallis, using the address above. Memories of LoErna may be shared by visiting [www.demossdurdan.com](http://www.demossdurdan.com) and selecting the obituary. DeMoss-Durdan Funeral Home has been assisting the family during this difficult time.



# Comments

---



“ I worked with Loerna in several organizations, including one which worked to bring over an Iraqi refugee family which has now been here for over 10 years. They greatly appreciate all the help Loerna has given them. Rawasi, the youngest daughter, and I visited Loerna in May. She has been such a blessing to this community and is greatly missed.



**Ann Gaidos-Morgan** - November 01, 2018 at 01:41 AM

---



“ On behalf of the Corvallis-area NAACP, I want you to know we share your grief at LoErna's passing. She was devoted in her attendance at meetings and even more devoted in her volunteer work for our organization. She contributed in the small tedious ways that keep a group running strong, like staffing outreach tables and putting meeting notices in the newspaper. She set a strong example of her belief that the work for peace must include work for racial justice. Our sincere condolences to her family and friends. In sympathy, Faith Reidenbach, for the Membership Committee

**Faith Reidenbach** - October 22, 2018 at 11:58 AM

---



“ LoErna did so many things to help make the world a better place--just two of them are the Amnesty International letter writers, and Pinwheels for Peace. I remember very well the big peace dove puppet she made--it was such a great addition to the Veterans For Peace contingent for the Veteran's (Armistice) Day Parade in Albany. Would that everyone would live their lives so unselfishly and with such compassion for others. Many condolences to her family.



**Leah Bolger** - October 17, 2018 at 08:53 PM

---



“ So many fond memories of working with LoErna on peace and social justice issues. Her compassion for immigrant families and those persecuted by governments everywhere was a shining light guiding our own organizing. We miss you, LoErna, and send our sincere condolences to her family.



**Bart Bolger** - October 17, 2018 at 07:31 PM

---



“ Our deepest condolences! Such a great lady! We enjoyed being in a book group at Westminster House with her for many years.  
Richard and Rosalie Clinton

**Richard L. Clinton** - October 17, 2018 at 05:27 PM

---



“ We're sorry for your loss. We admired Loerna for her courage and dedication to world peace, her objection to the proliferation of guns in the US, and her compassion for all the unfortunate people of the world. I enjoyed seeing her at our Raging Grannies meetings and events, and at the exercise class when we both used to go.

Janet & Doug Rasmussen

**Janet Rasmussen** - October 17, 2018 at 12:30 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Germany Dec 2017 River Boat Cruise



**Laura Welch** - October 16, 2018 at 06:56 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Germany Dec 2017 River Boat Cruise



Laura Welch - October 16, 2018 at 06:54 PM

---



“ 2 files added to the album LoErna's family



Laura Welch - October 16, 2018 at 06:32 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album July 2018



Laura Welch - October 16, 2018 at 06:27 PM

---



“ Laura Welch is following this tribute.

Laura Welch - October 16, 2018 at 06:22 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album July 2018



**Laura Welch** - October 16, 2018 at 06:20 PM

---



“ Sending you my condolences. I will always remember LoErna for the peace pin-wheels she distributed for so many years. She will be missed.

**Tanya Shively** - October 15, 2018 at 05:48 PM