

Remembrances



Norma Ann Showalter August 18, 1943 - October 29, 2025

Norma passed away after a brief illness. She spent much of her adult life in San Diego, CA. She was preceded in death by her husband, Owen (2017) and her sister, Mariella, who passed away in September of 2025.

As a young woman, Norma attended University of Washington for a period of time, after which she became a stewardess for American Airlines. She met her future husband, Owen, in the air, and they married in 1969. At that time, Owen had 5 children, and Norma willingly took them all under her wing. Norma and Owen had two children together, David and Lisa. Lisa passed away in 2014 at the age of 38, after a yearlong struggle with AML leukemia. David, who is autistic, lives in a group home in San Marcos, CA.

Norma and Owen loved to travel, and they traveled a lot during their marriage. Owen passed away in 2017, and Norma continued to travel and to visit with her grandchildren. A breast cancer survivor, Norma kept busy with activities at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito. She was known to be a pleasant, reliable and friendly member, acting frequently as a greeter or an usher at Sunday services. She enjoyed the choir and quietly supplied the Fellowship with a new piano bench in recent years. Norma was a longtime member of the Earth Centered Spirituality group. She was active in community outreach. Norma was a regular contributor to the Encinitas Fill-a-Belly program to feed those in need. She spearheaded the annual collection of lap blankets for the Encinitas Community Resource Center’s senior citizen blanket drive for many years. Norma will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Norma is survived by her son David, several stepchildren and grandchildren.

Blankets for
CRC Holiday Baskets



Fill A Belly Dinners
Monthly Thursday Night



School Supplies for
Low Income Students



Hot Chocolate for
CRC Holiday Baskets



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Kathy Flanigan In the 15 years I knew her, I enjoyed many meaningful conversations with Norma. As described by others, she was an intelligent and vibrant woman: quick with a response, always ready with a funny quip, and willing to put her own spin on things. Many others have acknowledged her ongoing commitment to acts of kindness towards others. She lived the covenant “let service be its prayer”. I once asked her what she’d found to be most meaningful in her life, and her response was fast: “Being a Mom.” Norma extended her love to David and Lisa – but also to Owen’s children from his prior marriage. With them, she was always respectful of the bond they had with their own Mom – but make no mistake – she considered them hers as well! As mothers will, she worried about the kids, grappled with whatever challenges they brought, and remained committed in the long haul. She stayed the course. Lisa’s early death from leukemia was tragic, and I remember her speaking of the struggle of “how to be in a world that doesn’t have Lisa in it...” Our dear friend had more than her share of pain. Yet rather than solely being defined by it, she elected to give back love. I feel she succeeded.

Irving Himelblau I remember Norma as being an energetic “go to” person in times of need. The Social Justice Action (SJA) Committee has an ongoing toiletry distribution program at the Encinitas CRC. When the pandemic hit, we had doubts about continuing to deliver toiletries because many of our unhoused friends were not wearing masks. I mentioned that in a report to the SJA very early on at the start of the pandemic. Three days later, Norma called up and said she had made approximately 100 masks for us to distribute to our unhoused friends. And, she continuing to make masks for distribution throughout the pandemic until masks became available.

And then there was the hot chocolate. The CRC holds a Holiday Basket at Christmas time. They have lists of food items that were boxed for their clients. Norma volunteered to be the UUFSD Representative to the CRC for the Holiday Basket program, and selected hot chocolate cocoa as the food item we would collect. I recall delivering pick up truck loads of hot chocolate packages to astonished CRC crews for the next three years.

And then there were the blankets. The CRC Holiday Baskets program coordinator contacted Norma three years ago and told her that they were creating baskets for seniors, and that one of the items needed was “throw blankets.” Well, Norma accepted the challenge and UUFSD went into the throw blanket collection mode under her leadership. And, as always, with Norma’s leadership we consistently collected more than our targeted goals. Norma was the consummate team player, whether coordinating the Holiday Baskets, providing monthly meals for Fill a Belly, administering the UUFSD Memorial Walkway or ushering on Sundays, Norma was there. I will miss her love for life and her commitment to social justice.

Richard Macdonald My first impression of Norma was that of a kind soul. She radiated a sense of contentment and joy, always with a pleasant greeting and smile. Others will comment on her social justice work, but I knew her spiritual side best. She was a dedicated member of the Sacred Text Discussion group, and always showed up with several pages of observations and questions about the reading at hand. She was somewhat reserved in discussions, but when she had something to say, it was clear she had been paying close attention and her comments were always right on the mark. I know she also belonged to the Earth Centered Spirituality Group, so her interest in the spiritual side of life was wide-ranging. She was a generous person as indicated by the scope of her involvement at UUFSD. She invariably bought Trader Joes gift cards to be sold at our annual auction (“You want another one? Just let me know.”, she would say). Norma has left a lasting memory in this Fellowship; I will never forget her.

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Linda Luisi Norma was a calm presence in the fellowship—always easy to talk to and always willing to help. She had an underlying gentle sense of humor about her and will be greatly missed.

Betsy Gilpin Norma and I took the training for voter registration at the same time and decided to team up for our efforts. We put our heads together to figure out where we should set up that would have a traffic flow of those most likely to be unregistered, and came up with the Community Resource Center on 2nd street in Encinitas. So one day about noon we set up shop there. Well we misjudged the amount of pedestrians this site would provide. Out of boredom, Norma started to label who was and was not already registered when someone was still a block away. Those fairly well dressed and walking along with confidence she categorized as “already registered,” and when asked, they said they were. For those less well dressed but still walking fairly confidently, we put on our most winning smiles and asked, “Would you like to register to vote?” and it was among this group that we registered a total of just two people. Those dressed somewhat shabbily, got the same cheerful question, and generally answered by a slight shake of the head, avoiding eye contact, and went right on walking. Yes, this was stereotypical profiling, but Norma was 100% spot on.