

Carol Hardgrove Aldrich Gilbert (Bortin)

Dec. 28, 1921 – October 16, 2016

Born in St. Louis, MO, moved to Pasadena, CA where she attended Pasadena Junior College, then Broadoaks School of Early Childhood Education in Pasadena.

In 1940, Carol married Robert Hardgrove, and they moved to San Mateo in 1946 where she founded the San Mateo Parents Co-op Nursery through the Adult Education Department at the College of San Mateo from 1947 to 1964. She earned her BA in Early Childhood and MA in Counseling from San Francisco State. In 1967 she joined faculty at UCSF School of Nursing, becoming a Professor for the Department of Pediatrics in 1978 until her retirement as a Professor Emeritus. She and her friend, Penny Dawson, wrote Parents & Children in the Hospital, published by Little, Brown & Co. in 1972, a book which changed the relationship between sick children, their parents and hospitals in the United States. Carol was co-recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Public Service in 1979. She was on the board of Family House, received a World Health Organization Fellowship in 1971 to investigate policies of parental inclusion and play in hospitals in England, Sweden, Denmark and Holland.

All the while, Carol raised four children, remained active in Democratic politics and liberal causes. She was a founding member of the San Mateo Unitarian Church. Robert Hardgrove died in 1975. Carol married Jim Aldrich in 1980 and they had many wonderful years at his cabin in Echo Lake until his death in 2001. She and Chuck Gilbert met at the Magnolia of Millbrae and were together until the end of his life.

Carol is survived by her children, Barbara and her husband Gerald Fitzgerald, Sally and her husband Richard Toft, Steven Hardgrove and his wife Barbara, Ann and her husband Art McGlenon; grandchildren Joseph Fitzgerald and his wife Marina, Robert Voris and his wife Whitney Estrin, Ariel Toft and her husband James Klugman; great grandchildren Casey and Cassie Fitzgerald. She was predeceased by her grandsons Michael Fitzgerald and Hank Voris. There are numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and step-children of the Bortin and Aldrich families who loved and admired Carol.

Carol was very well cared for by the caretakers at Sunrise Senior Living in Oakland.