

In Memoriam

Elise Blumenfeld, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.P.H. '78, died March 6, 2009, at age 77. Born in New Orleans, she moved to Berkeley with her first husband, Marvin Wolff, with whom she had three children. She received her bachelor's degree and master's degrees in social work and public health from UC Berkeley and served on the UC Berkeley Public Health Alumni Association board of directors. She earned a doctorate from the Institute for Clinical Social Work. In 1976, she married Neal Blumenfeld, and the two later opened a psychotherapy practice together. She founded many social work psychotherapy movements in the Bay Area, ran a clinic in Oakland for 10 years, and started the Sanville Institute in Berkeley, which offers education and professional growth for psychotherapists.

Leland C. Brown, M.P.H. '85, died Feb. 26, 2008, at the age of 59. Born in Oakland, he received his bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and an M.P.H. in health policy and planning from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, which awarded him the distinguished Alumni Scholarship Award. In 1980 he moved to Thailand to organize laboratories and teach laboratory skills to refugee Cambodian health workers living along the border. While working in Khao-I-Dang refugee camp, he met his future wife, Leigh Pierson-Brown, M.P.H. '85, who was working there as a pediatric nurse practitioner. In 1982, he worked in Nicaragua as a member of the team that collaborated with the Ministry of Health to develop the International Health Colloquia. He was the first executive director of the Oakland Health Academy and also worked for the City of Oakland as a budget analyst. The owner and founder of Global Bridges Group, he consulted all over the United States on change process, the power of teams, and diversity. He is survived by his wife and two children.



Eugene S. Darling died at his home in El Cerrito in Dec. 2008 at age 65. He began his career at Berkeley as a graduate student in 1967, and worked at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health's Labor Occupational Health Program (LOHP) from its inception in 1974. He ultimately became its principal editor and coordinator of its publishing program. He started LOHP's first publication, *The Monitor*, and edited and helped write dozens

Selma Dritz, Early Heroine of the AIDS Epidemic



Selma K. Dritz, M.D., M.P.H. '67, died September 3, 2008, in Oakland. She was 91. A San Francisco public health physician who tracked the city's earliest AIDS cases, she was widely regarded as a heroine of the AIDS epidemic.

Dritz was born in Chicago and earned her medical degree at the University of Illinois. She earned her master's degree in public health at UC Berkeley just before joining the

San Francisco health department as assistant director of the Bureau of Communicable Disease Control. She remained in the San Francisco health department throughout her career.

In May and early June 1981, she and Dr. Erwin Braff noticed a few cases of a rare pneumonia that was killing young gay men in San Francisco. Dritz reported that information to the CDC. Along with five similar cases from Los Angeles, this was the first recorded evidence of the incipient AIDS epidemic. Because of her prior work tracing cases of amoebic dysentery, syphilis, and gonorrhea within the city's gay community, Dritz's patients within the community trusted her, and she was able to trace their contacts and counsel them about safe sex. She was also the first to identify Burkitt's lymphoma as an AIDS-defining illness.

Her role in the early years of the AIDS epidemic was dramatized in the 1993 film *And the Band Played On*. In 1988, she was named Alumna of the Year by the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

Dritz is survived by a son, two daughters, and two grandsons.

of resources for unions, workers, community organizations, health and legal professionals, and others. He is survived by his brother and sister and their families.

Fredrick W. Egli died December 20, 2008, at his home in Walnut Creek. Born in Berkeley, he graduated from high school in El Cerrito and then attended UC Berkeley. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering cum laude from Duke University in 1957. As a student, he worked for Westinghouse on the first nuclear submarine. He served in the U.S. Navy and taught electronics to Marines during the Korean War. He worked at Aerojet General Nucleonics, Applied Radiation, and Siemens Oncology, from which he retired as vice president of manufacturing operations in 1995. He was a committed supporter of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health along with his wife of 60 years, Viola Egli, who survives him. He is also survived by three children, three grandchildren, two sisters, and three brothers.



Daniel H. Fletcher, M.P.H. '56, B.S. '54, died September 23, 2008, at his home in Martinez, California, at age 82. Born in Portland, Oregon, he attended Reed

College for two years before transferring to UC Berkeley, where he earned a bachelor's degree in public health with highest honors in 1954. Two years later, he earned a master's degree in hospital administration from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. He and his first wife, Eleanor Fletcher, shared a passion for public service and each had long careers in public health administration. He served as a hospital administrator for Kaiser Permanente at several facilities in Northern California. In the 1970s, he joined Kaiser International and consulted on hospital design and administration in several countries. He was stationed in Curacao and Bahrain. He and Eleanor, who died in 1997, are survived by their three children. He is also survived by his wife, Gaye Fletcher.

Frances Jones Freitas, B.A. '44, died September 28, 2008. She was a life member of the California Alumni Association. She worked 44 years as a medical laboratory technologist in several hospitals in Oakland and the last 20 years at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, California. She is survived by her husband, Daniel D. Freitas.

Alfred Hexter, Ph.D., M.A. '58, B.A. '56, died Nov. 16, 2007. A graduate and former staff member of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, he later worked with the California Department of Health Services. He is survived by his wife, Stella Hexter.



Alvin R. Leonard, M.D., M.P.H. '71, a onetime director of public health for the city of Berkeley, died April 20, 2008, at age 90. Born in New York City and raised in Los

Angeles, he received his bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1938 and graduated at the head of his class from the University of Southern California School of Medicine in 1942. The following year, he joined the U.S. Army and served in Europe as an anesthesiologist in the 5th Auxiliary Surgical Group. As the city of Berkeley's public health director from 1957 to 1970, he launched a campaign to promote use of seatbelts before they were standard equipment in U.S. automobiles, helped establish the Berkeley Free Clinic, was an early proponent of tobacco control, and monitored sanitary conditions at the request of Native Americans during their 1969 occupation of Alcatraz. In 1963, he coauthored a landmark book, *Public Administration: A Public Health Viewpoint*, with longtime colleague and friend Henrik L. Blum. He received his master's degree in public health from UC Berkeley in 1971. After teaching for five years at the University of Arizona, he returned to California for a variety of posts in state and county health departments. Among his achievements was the establishment of statewide programs to control high blood pressure among different ethnic groups. He continued to consult on public health affairs after his retirement in 1984. He is survived by his wife, Pearl, and two daughters.

Walter Nelson-Rees, Ph.D., died January 23, 2009, in San Francisco. He was 80. A UC Berkeley geneticist, he was best known for having discovered and sounded the alarm on massive contamination

of cells used in some research laboratories around the world. In June 1974, while a researcher at the Cell Culture Laboratory at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health, he published a report in *Science* magazine that said one type of human cell grown in laboratories for medical experimentation had secretly contaminated many cultures that were thought to be pure and unsullied. The discovery caused widespread consternation in scientific and medical circles because it cast doubt on the purity of cells under study in numerous laboratories. He was born in Havana and grew up in Germany before coming to the United States for his education. Nelson-Rees received a bachelor's degree from Emory University in 1951 and a master's degree in biology in 1952.

He received his doctorate from UC Berkeley and later studied at the Max Planck Institute for Marine Biology in Germany. He worked at UC Berkeley's Naval Biological Laboratory from 1962 to 1981. After his retirement from the scientific world, he concentrated on collecting and selling historical California art. He is survived by his partner of 50 years, James L. Coran, and his sister-in-law.

Mildred F. Patterson, M.P.H. '65, died on April 14, 2008, in Durham, North Carolina, at age 95. Born near Savannah, Tennessee, she received a degree in English and a certificate in piano from Randolph-Macon Women's College, and a degree in biological statistics from Columbia University.

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Paola Timiras, Prominent Researcher on Aging

Paola Silvestri Timiras, Ph.D., a leading researcher in the physiology of aging, died September 12, 2008, at Summit Medical Center in Oakland at age 85.

Born in Rome, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Rome's medical school in 1947. Subsequently, she and her husband, Nicholas Timiras, relocated to Montreal, where she enrolled in the University of Montreal to study experimental medicine and surgery. She earned her Ph.D. in 1952 and was hired there as an assistant professor.

In 1954, she and her husband moved to the United States, where she took a position in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Utah Medical School. In 1955, she joined the UC Berkeley Physiology Department as an assistant physiologist and was appointed to the faculty in 1958. She became a full professor in 1967, chaired the Department of Physiology and Anatomy from 1978 until 1984, and continued to teach and conduct research after her retirement in 1994. In her mid 80s, she was still supervising students in the laboratory. She was actively involved with the UC Berkeley Resource Center on Aging, where she created the Paola Timiras Award for Research in Aging to support students. Throughout her career she studied how hormones influence the brain, in particular how sex hormones affect brain development. In recent years, Timiras's group has been probing whether estrogen protects nerve cells against age-related changes that cause memory loss.

The recipient of numerous medals and awards, she was one of the founders (and the president from 1978 to 1981) of the International Society of Developmental Neuroscience; vice president and president of the International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology from 1974 to 1982; and president in 1970 of Iota Sigma Pi, the Association of Women Chemists. She was the author or editor of 15 books and more than 400 articles in Italian, French and English, notably *Physiological Basis of Aging and Geriatrics*, now in its fourth edition.

She is survived by her son and daughter. Her husband, Nicholas Timiras, died in 1996.

In Memoriam, continued

Irving Tabershaw, Father of Occupational Medicine



Irving R. Tabershaw, M.D., died March 8, 2008, in Tucson, Arizona. He was 99. Tabershaw is considered by many as the father of modern occupational medicine.

Born in New York City, he received a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. After two years of graduate study at the Sorbonne in Paris, he returned to New York, where he earned a medical degree from what was then the Long Island College of Medicine. He joined the U.S. Public Health Service during World War II and worked on the Manhattan Project, a secret multi-country effort to develop the atomic bomb.

He became interested in occupational medicine and industrial hygiene and embarked on a long and distinguished career in this field, then a fledgling area of medical study. Tabershaw was a professor of occupational medicine (later professor emeritus) at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and Columbia University, and was past president of the American College of Preventive Medicine. He was a long-time editor of the *Journal of Occupational Medicine*. He established occupational medical consultancy practices in California, Maryland, and Arizona, and counted numerous Fortune 500 and international companies among his clients.

She worked as a health educator in several different counties in Tennessee prior to earning her master's degree in public health at UC Berkeley. She worked as a health education adviser for the World Health Organization, serving four years in India and three years in Indonesia. After retiring from the WHO, she worked for six years as a health educator for the state of North Carolina. She is survived by a brother, a sister, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Lucille M. Saloum, M.D., M.P.H. '76, died August 29, 2008, at age 78. She received her medical degree from the University of Minnesota in 1954, her OB-GYN specialty at Stanford, and endocrinology expertise at the University of Washington. Following several years of private practice in Duluth, Minnesota, she came to UC Berkeley, earning her M.P.H. in maternal and child health in 1976. She

became director of maternal and child health for Monterey County and then a medical consultant for the California Air Resources Board, where she was instrumental in establishing the standards and legislation governing California lead emissions. She retired in 1990.

William F. Taylor, Ph.D. '51, died December 30, 2008, at age 87. Born in Cincinnati, he received a degree in mathematics from UC Berkeley in 1943 before being sent to the Pacific as a meteorologist in the Air Force from 1943 to 1946. He returned to UC Berkeley and earned a Ph.D. in public health statistics in 1951. From 1951 to 1958, he was chief of the Department of Biometrics at Randolph AFB in Texas. From 1958 to 1967, he served on the faculty at UC Berkeley, ultimately holding the position of professor of biostatistics. He joined the Mayo

Clinic staff in 1967 as a professor and consultant in biostatistics, serving as head of the Section of Medical Research Statistics from 1967 to 1975, and founding the Cancer Center Statistics Unit. Taylor chaired Mayo's Cancer Patient Data System Committee until his retirement in 1986. He was a fellow of the American Public Health Association and the American Statistical Association. Taylor was married to Lois McIntosh for 36 years until her death in 1979. In 1981, he married Judith Keller. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, two stepdaughters, a sister, seven grandchildren, and eight stepgrandchildren.

Ellen L. Wolfe, P.N.P., Dr.P.H. '99, M.P.H. '96, died on August 4, 2008, in San Francisco at age 55. Born in Denver, she attended nursing school at the University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, with a music scholarship as a violinist, receiving a bachelor of science degree in 1975. She received a master's degree in nursing from UCSF in 1983, followed by a master's and doctorate in public health from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. She served as director of the Early Parenting Program, a pioneering child abuse prevention program at San Francisco General Hospital and was instrumental in creating the hospital's Child Protection Center, serving as the program's associate director for health care services from 1989 through 2005. At the time of her death, she was serving as director of Children's Medical Services for the city and county of San Francisco. She also held an assistant clinical professorship in the Department of Family Health Care Nursing at the UCSF School of Nursing. A tireless advocate for children's access to health care services, she served on many regional and state committees that address the needs of underserved children and families. She is survived by her mother, two sisters, two brothers, and three nephews.

If you would like to make a donation in someone's memory, please make your check payable to the **"School of Public Health Fund"** and include a note indicating the name of the person you are memorializing. You can make your gift online at sph.berkeley.edu/giving/ or mail it to the attention of Pat Hosel, Office of External Relations and Development, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, 417 University Hall #7360, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.

Leona Shapiro, Nutritionist, Pioneered Studies on Children and Weight

Leona Shapiro, Dr.P.H. '74, a leading public health nutritionist who played major roles in early research on child obesity, died at her home on Feb. 24, 2009, at the age of 89.

Shapiro began her decades-long career at UC Berkeley in 1958 as a lecturer in public health nutrition at the School of Public Health. She also held a concurrent position as nutritionist for the city of Berkeley's Department of Public Health.

She worked closely with Ruth Huenemann, a UC Berkeley professor emerita who was the founding chair of the campus's public health nutrition program and who led the landmark Berkeley Longitudinal Nutrition Study, which followed children from age six months to 16 years. Hundreds of children born in Berkeley in 1969 and 1970 were enrolled in that study. Huenemann, who died in 2005, led the study during its first eight years. In 1977, Shapiro took the helm, securing funding for eight additional years of follow-up.

One of the major findings of the Berkeley study was determination of the critical periods of obesity development in children. Shapiro noted at the time that the research dispelled a common view that "fat babies become fat children," and focused more attention on the importance of toddlers' eating and activity patterns as a determinate of subsequent obesity.

Many of the lessons learned from this study were communicated in a 1985 report, *Children and Weight: A Changing Perspective*, authored by Shapiro and 10 other health experts who were members of the Ad Hoc Interdisciplinary Committee on Children and Weight. The report focused on positive parenting practices and revealed ways in which obsession with thinness was leading to an increase in disordered eating and health problems among adolescents.

In addition to her work on the Berkeley Longitudinal Nutrition Study, Shapiro collaborated with Lester Breslow, who established the Alameda County Human Population Laboratory, a pioneering study on the life behaviors connected to disease prevention.



Leona Shapiro and Alberto M. Ortega, M.P.H. '07, at a 2007 event commemorating the School of Public Health's history in Warren Hall.

Shapiro was born in New York City and grew up in Chicago. She earned her bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics at the University of Illinois in 1940, followed by work at Philadelphia's Jewish Hospital (now the Albert Einstein Medical Center), first as a dietetic intern and later as a dietitian. In 1944, during World War II, Shapiro joined the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer. She served as a dietitian in the Medical Department until 1946.

After her service in the U.S. Army, Shapiro worked at the Chicago Department of Welfare for nearly five years before enrolling in Columbia University's

Teachers College, where she earned her master of science degree in public health nutrition in 1953.

She then settled in California, where she worked as a dietitian and clinic nutritionist with the Kaiser Foundation Hospital from 1953 to 1958. After Kaiser, Shapiro began working as a lecturer at UC Berkeley and as a nutritionist with the city of Berkeley's Department of Health. As she maintained both jobs, Shapiro worked towards her doctorate degree in public health, which she received in 1974, from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

In addition to her research, Shapiro was a popular and well-regarded teacher at UC Berkeley. She held positions as assistant professor, adjunct assistant professor and assistant research nutritionist before retiring in 1987.

Her professional honors include the Mary Rourke Memorial Award from the American Public Health Association's Public Health Nutrition Section, the Mary Swartz Rose Fellowship from the American Dietetic Association, and the Dolores Nyhus Memorial Award, the highest honor given by the California Dietetic Association.

She is survived by her sister, Ruth Kadish, a niece, a nephew, a grandniece, and a grandnephew. 🌐