

# Morneen Bratt

Morneen "Miki" Bratt died at her Claremont home on October 15, 1998 after waging a battle against first breast and then bone cancer. Ms. Bratt was 65 years of age.

Pragmatic, but idealistic; private, but firm in her beliefs, Morneen Kamiki Cutter Bratt was born on April 26, 1933 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She came with her family as a young infant to California and grew up in El Segundo, southwest of Los Angeles.

After high school in Los Angeles, Ms. Bratt attended and graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree in political science. She later added a master's degree in women's studies at California State University at San Bernardino, and in June, 1993 earned a master's degree in planning from California State Polytechnic University at Pomona.

While at UCLA the then Ms. Cutter was very active in the Bruin Mountaineers hiking club. It was there that she met and in 1955 married Gerrit "Gary" Teuns Bratt.

The couple lived in Eugene, Oregon briefly and then in Pomona where Mr. Bratt was with General Dynamics. They moved to Claremont in 1964. Mr. Bratt died in 1982.

Always deeply interested in the environment, soon after she came to Claremont Ms. Bratt became a water resources consultant through the League of Women Voters for Claremont, Los Angeles



**Morneen "Miki" Bratt**

County and California regions where she was responsible for research, analysis and public information. She was the public representative to the Los Angeles Water Quality Control Board Task Force during efforts to clean up the Los Angeles Harbor in the 1960s and in 1975 served as chairwoman of the environmental subcommittee for the City of Claremont Water Task Force.

Ms. Bratt also served the city as

member of the planning commission from 1994 until her illness made it necessary for her to resign last month.

Reflecting her deep interest in art, Ms. Bratt was an adjunct professor in art and art history at the University of La Verne on a part-time basis from 1979 through the spring of 1986.

Professionally, Ms. Bratt was with the City of La Verne from 1983 to 1986 where she was a coordinator of community development block grants and housing rehabilitation. She joined the City of Rancho Cucamonga planning staff in 1986 through the block grant program and was an associate planner when she retired in May of this year.

Brad Buller of that staff and formerly with the Claremont planning department, wrote to Ms. Bratt on the occasion of her retirement, "I have always and will continue to admire your courage and determination. From my first contact with you, back in my Claremont days, you have shown a strong conviction for what you believe...Your ability to tackle the tough issues has been appreciated....You are one very, very special person."

An avid and thoughtful traveler, Ms. Bratt was particularly fond of the Southwest and treasured her trips to Greece, the last of which she made in June of this year.

Also a student of feminism, Ms. Bratt recently wrote **When There Was No Word for War**, a fictional retelling of the Helen of Troy narrative based on the matriarchal culture of pre-historic Crete. Ms. Bratt offered her reflections on dealing with her illness in a personal letter to friends at the close of 1997. In

part she wrote: "I don't subscribe to the patriarchal doctrine of deserved human suffering. I assert that beauty and love create, inform, and unify the process of life on Earth....I have had a very high quality year with family and friends, a year full of beauty and love. I would put my money on 'red' again. Today the sky is blue and clear, the mountains white, and flowers are blooming."

Close friends Sandra Baldonado and Dick and Joan Apel were with Ms. Bratt at the time of her death.

Ms. Bratt is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Renata Bratt and Lee Ray of Scotts Valley, California; by her sons and daughters-in-law, Edward and Lar-rain Bratt of Oakland and David Bratt and Sandy Floyd of Boulder, Colorado; by her grandchildren, Alexander, 12, of Scotts Valley and Margaret, 18 months, of Oakland; by her half-brother and half-sisters, Ron Rennison of Long Beach, Patricia Torres of El Segundo, Geraldine Brooks of Waterford, Virginia, and Darlene Bungey of Wimbledon, England.

Ms. Bratt's life will be celebrated at a private gathering of family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ms. Bratt's name to the donors' choices of environmental or women's organizations.

## Keith Rinehart

Former Claremont resident Keith L. Rinehart died October 27, 1998 at San Antonio Community Hospital following