

Anita Burdman Feferman

July 27, 1927-April 9, 2015

Anita Burdman Feferman died peacefully at the age of 87 in hospice care at her home, to the surprise of many who thought her invincible. Professionally, she was noted as the author of two highly praised biographies, and personally as a vibrant, stylish, athletic, direct, spontaneous, engaging and engaged human being. She was a loyal friend to young and old; to her family she was sine qua non as a loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother.

Born in Los Angeles, Anita Feferman attended Hollywood High School, UCLA and the University of California at Berkeley, from which she graduated in 1948 with a B.A. After working as a teacher on a pediatric psychiatric ward in San Francisco she returned to the university in Berkeley for a degree in education, and then taught to her constant satisfaction in the Oakland elementary school system. In 1956 she moved to the Peninsula with her husband Solomon Feferman, who had just joined the faculty of Stanford University in the departments of Mathematics and Philosophy. They came with two very young daughters and so Anita traded teaching for raising a family.

Always a serious reader and natural storyteller, in her 40s she took writing courses at Stanford and began her writing career with a number of short stories and interviews. It was also at Stanford that she became an early and active member of a notable biographers' seminar initiated by Diane Middlebrook and Barbara Babcock. Anita Feferman's first biography was *Politics, Logic and Love: The Life of Jean van Heijenoort* (reprinted in paper as *From Trotsky to Gödel*), published in 1993. That was followed in 2004 by *Alfred Tarski: Life and Logic*, co-authored with Solomon Feferman. Each of these books dealt with a passionate, complicated man whose life and career was directly bound up with major historical events of the 30s and 40s, the first, a revolutionary who ended up as an esteemed scholar of logic, and the second, one of the most important logicians of the 20th century and leader of a new school in logic at Berkeley. Both biographies were acclaimed for their engaging and revealing storytelling deepened by full explanations of their historical context and the nature of the scientific contributions involved.

Over the years, Anita and Solomon travelled widely, especially during his sabbatical years when they resided in Princeton, Cambridge (MA), Oxford, Paris, Florence and Rome. Besides the pleasure they took in expanding their cultural horizons, they formed many new friendships in the process, enhanced by Anita's fearlessness with new languages and her endless curiosity about people. When at home, Anita enjoyed playing tennis competitively, ran and swam, treasured her work in the garden—lush with flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs—and was famed for hosting memorable and convivial meals.

Anita Burdman Feferman is predeceased by her daughter, Rachel Feferman, and is survived by her husband, Solomon Feferman, daughter Julie Feferman-Perez, and granddaughters, Isabel Feferman-Perez and Graciela Feferman-Perez.