

**A Celebration of the  
Magnificent Life of  
Linda Ann Kunz**



**Jan. 18, 1940 - Dec. 21, 2009**

Linda Ann Kunz (January 18, 1940 – December 21, 2009) will be remembered for her boundless energy, keen imagination, great generosity and never-ending zest for life. She grew up in Hempstead, Long Island, but it was at SUNY New Paltz that the Linda we all knew was born. In the 1960s, early in her forty-eight year teaching career, she taught in a small village in Kenya, often traveling down the mountain on weekends to sing in a nightclub at the beach. Later, she taught Peace Corps Volunteers. But it was when Linda was working on her Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Second Language at Teachers College, Columbia University, that her life's passion began: She studied Sector Analysis with Dr. Robert L. Allen.

She became expert in this grammar, which led to her becoming known internationally for her books, articles and workshops on X-Word Grammar [<http://xwordgrammar.pbworks.com/>]. Linda's love of grammar and her passion teaching ESL students to write were unparalleled. She went on to become an influential long-time teacher of ESL and teacher trainer. She taught graduate students—future ESL teachers—at NYU and she also taught undergraduates at CUNY in The English Language Center at LaGuardia Community College (1981 – 2009), at Hunter (1972 – 1981), York, Lehman, John Jay and Baruch. She studied Aesthetic Realism, which informed her teaching for over 35 years. In the 1990s, she received her Ed.D. in Applied Linguistics at Teachers College. As a tribute to her outstanding career of five decades she was given special recognition posthumously on March 16 as part of the 2010 *New York Times* ESOL Teacher of the Year Award.

But the Linda we know and love was so much more than all of that. She was the Linda who fought to abolish the death penalty. She was the Linda who loved sailing on the Long Island Sound and watching birds in Central Park. She was the Linda who loved to travel and to curl up with her cat Jimmy and read *The New York Times*. She was the Linda who loved to go to a good restaurant with friends and would fight with you for the bill. She was the Linda who loved to talk about Darwin or what she had read in the *Times* or seen in a movie, a play, or on *House*. She was the Linda who loved to sit down at the piano and just play for hours. She was the Linda who had each of us feel loved, who is so alive, and who will live forever in our memories.

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For those of you still wishing to make contributions in Linda's memory, we list her two favorite charities:

TEAA supports secondary schools in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. [www.tea-a.org](http://www.tea-a.org)  
ACCES is a not-for-profit organization that helps young Kenyans obtain the skills and education they need to benefit themselves and their society.  
[www.acceskenya.org](http://www.acceskenya.org)



# The Celebration — May 8, 2010

Introduction: Brent Buell

Welcome from NYU: Miriam Eisenstein Ebsworth

Friends Remember:

Carrie Alexander

Arlene Sulkis

Vocal Solo: Anastasia Ellanna Swope (acc. Kevin Shihoten)

"And He Shall Feed His Flock" — George Frederic Handel

Professional Colleagues Remember:

Laurie Gluck — LaGuardia Community College

Alice Deakins — William Paterson University

Brooks Goddard — President, Teachers for East Africa Alumni

Vocal Solo by LaGuardia colleague: Paul Fraccalvieri

"Hey There" — Adler & Ross (acc. Stephen Hosmer)

More friends remember:

Janice Cline

Grace Felicetti

Bill Friedman

Vocal Solo: Anastasia Ellanna Swope (acc. Kevin Shihoten)

Anakreons Grab *Goethe Lieder*, no 29 by Hugo Wolf

More tributes from friends:

Effie Cochran — Reading note of Janet Holding from England  
and the poem *Ithaca* by Cavafy

Recording of Linda Kunz reading the poem

"I've Loved Some Things" by Ataul Behramogul

Vocal Solo by Linda's student: Yeongmi Kim

Shubert, *Ave Maria* (acc. Kevin Shihoten)

Closing Remarks: Brent Buell

**Special Acknowledgement for Music Before and After Celebration:**

Piano Soloist: Kevin Shihoten

Violin Soloist: Betsy Hill (acc. Susan Parrish)

We Wish to Thank the Following  
And Others Who Contributed More Recently  
For Their Generous Contributions

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Harry Abrams                 | Sylvia Gonzalez                   |
| Rashida Aziz                 | Cathy Goosman                     |
| Carrie Alexander             | Joe Greene                        |
| Lazlo Arvai & Kevin Shihoten | Stephen Hosmer                    |
| Victoria Badalamenti         | Patti Juza                        |
| Ruben Baez                   | Anna Lee Kagen                    |
| Carrie Barnard               | Sophie Kerbeykian                 |
| Diana Berkowitz              | Scott Kunz                        |
| Martha Bordman               | Sharon Kunz                       |
| Lorraine Bria                | Sue Livingston                    |
| Elaine Brooks                | Jeffrey & Helen Maurer            |
| Margaret Carson              | Jean McConochie                   |
| Cyndi Casey                  | Steve & Joye Munson               |
| Barbara Cipriani             | Diana Murray & Antonio Carosi     |
| Betina Cochran/Leontopoulos  | Linda Pelc & Cynthia Wiseman      |
| Effie Papatzikou Cochran     | Margarita & Manuel Peralta        |
| Alice Deakins                | Carmine Pulera                    |
| Janice Cline & Brent Buell   | Mary Regan                        |
| Monica Cristando             | Maribel Robles                    |
| Charles Coleman              | Evelyn Rodriguez                  |
| Florence Diallo              | Eva & Joel Ruben                  |
| Grace Felicetti              | Jerry & Joan Schieber             |
| Michelle Fine                | Laurie Shayler                    |
| Angela Fout                  | Patricia Sokolski                 |
| Paul Fraccalvieri            | Maxine Steinhau                   |
| Bill Freidman                | Arlene Sulkis & Shelley Silverman |
| Glen & Tracy Feminella       | Jim Weikart & Dana Lichty         |
| Gloria Gallingane            | Pat Travis                        |
| Judy Gex                     | Debra Un & Errol Selkirk          |
| Laurie Gluck                 | Anonymous                         |
| Brooks & Jeanie Goddard      |                                   |

### Acknowledgments

The friends and colleagues of Linda who planned this event—Victoria Badalamenti, Brent Buell, Cyndi Casey, Janice Cline, Effie Cochran, Laurie Gluck and Sylvia Gonzalez—wish to thank all of you for making today happen and for the photographs you sent. We thank NYU's Department of Teaching and Learning for providing this lovely space, and LaGuardia Community College for printing this program.

Cover Portrait and Video Slide Show by Brent Buell