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Obituaries

# RUTH HELEN WERNER FINLAY

1924 - 2016 ▾ Obituary ▸ Condolences



Ruth Helen Werner Finlay  
1924 ~ 2016

Resident of Alamo  
Passed away peacefully at her home in Alamo surrounded by her loving family on February 27, 2016. Ruth was born on December 31, 1924 in Chicago, IL., to Knute and Maria

Werner, immigrants from Sweden, and remained proud of her Swedish heritage throughout her life. She was the third oldest of nine brothers and sisters with whom she was very close. She attended Messiah Lutheran Church, graduated with honors from Harper High School in 1942 and went to college at The Art Institute of Chicago. While working for Magnecord in downtown Chicago, Ruth went on a blind date with George Finlay who made her laugh (and how!) and became the love of her life. They were happily married for 49 years and traveled the world sharing many wonderful adventures before he passed away in 2001.

Ruth and George, an executive with [General Motors](#), enjoyed living in Chicago, IL, Pomona, CA, Walnut Creek, CA, Palos Verdes, CA and Lincolnshire, IL before settling in Alamo in 1975. They were proud members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Walnut Creek where they made many lifelong friends. Ruth was also active with The Assistance League of Diablo Valley, receiving the Woman of Distinction Award for her outstanding volunteer efforts from Soroptimist International in 1991. She especially loved her work with Telecare, Kids on the Block, Hospitality, and The Wayside Inn. She was also The Picture Lady who taught art to children, Library Story Lady, Room Mother, Girl Scout Leader, Sunday School Teacher, Mrs. Claus, Hostess with the Mostess, and countless other things. But above all else, Ruth was the best wife, mom, MorMor, sister, aunt, friend, and neighbor anyone could wish for. She had a huge heart, was the belle of the ball, the life of every party and will be so very missed.

Ruth is survived by her three daughters and their husbands Christine Finlay (Dave), Cassie O'Mara (Neal), and Karen Finlay (Jon); adored grandchildren Callan and Aidan O'Mara and Andrew and Annabel Burchard; her



## SERVICES



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Free funeral planning guide compliments of Wilson & Kratzer Chapel of San Ramon Valley

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beloved sisters and brothers Betty, Nita, Marianne, Ron and Marilyn (and the wonderful memories of Elvie and Bro, Norma and Emil, Norie and Don, Dick, Bud, Bob, and Jackie) and their children and grandchildren; and many neighbors and friends who loved her.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate her life at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 2, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 2491 San Miguel Dr., Walnut Creek.

The family would like to extend special thanks to Pastor Glenda Wilson, Telecare, caregiver Gloria Avent, the angels of Hospice of the East Bay, and dear friends Susie and Peter Ruotsi.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the places closest to her heart:

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2491 San Miguel Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94596

THE ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF DIABLO VALLEY, 2711 Buena Vista Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

HOSPICE OF THE EAST BAY,

[www.hospiceeastbay.org/donation-page](http://www.hospiceeastbay.org/donation-page)

Ruth's last words were, "I am so happy." The best way to honor her memory is to live and love life the way she did, and cherish every moment.

[View the online memorial for Ruth Helen Werner Finlay](#)



Published in East Bay Times on Mar. 27, 2016

## REMEMBER

Share memories or express condolences below.

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*"Ruth was a wonderful and loving sister-in-law to me, and I will always miss her ending comment, after calling her..."*

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