

Cecilia Montaner-Vargas

Obituary

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CECILIA

MONTANER-VARGAS

ITHACA - Cecilia Montaner-Vargas passed away peacefully at her home on the morning of Friday, November 7, 2008. She was born on July 7, 1955, in Coronel, a small coal mining city in the south of Chile. Because of her participation in the social reform process in Chile, Cecilia and her immediate family were forced into exile by the military junta led by Augusto Pinochet, first to Argentina and then to Ithaca, New York, where she established residence since 1978. Cecilia lived a full life. She was a loving and protecting mother, an unselfish partner and giving friend, and an adoring grandmother, or "Nona", for her grandsons. Cecilia was a teacher, a social entrepreneur, a social worker, a restless community organizer and an advocate for the rights of the young people, the working poor, the immigrant, the disenfranchised, and marginalized.

Cecilia will always be remembered as a relentless fighter for the rights of each and every one to have a decent, dignified life. She chose to be part of the movement advancing the culture of life and denouncing the culture of death and destruction. We will miss her love, counsel, guidance and leadership. Cecilia is survived by her husband, Leonardo Vargas-Mendez; her daughters, Karla and Camila; her grandsons, Joaquin and Nikolay; her sisters, Fabiola, Ximena, and Pricila; her brother, Boris; and aunts, uncles and cousins, all residing in Chile. There will be a community celebration of Cecilia's life and accomplishments on Saturday, November 22, 2008, 3:00-5:00 p.m., at Hilton Inn, the Seneca Place, Ithaca.

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- See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/theithacajournal/obituary.aspx?n=cecilia-montaner-vargas&pid=120368891#sthash.c8aJKMk5.dpuf>