# Marsha Hudson

March 23, 1945 – December 14, 2025



Marsha Hudson, Ph.D. a lifelong feminist and civil rights activist since her teens, died at 80 in her Santa Cruz home December 14, 2025. She faced many childhood challenges: alcoholic parents, early father death, poverty, Rocky Mountains cabin living, frequent school changes and raising two younger brothers.

She entered UC Berkeley in 1963, where she worked her way through sixteen years of college to a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. After first protesting Vietnam and civil rights, she formed a salon in her apartment in 1969 that launched a movement to include women's literature in academic studies and develop feminist literary criticism. This led by 1976 to one of the first women's studies departments in America. In 2005 her team published a book, *The Berkeley Women's Literary Revolution: Essays from Marsha's Salon.*

When male department heads wouldn't hire any feminist Ph.D.s she entered the banking industry in 1979. In Southern California her managerial intelligence soon led her to the top of bank management as first vice-president.

In the nineties she resumed college teaching of women's studies, essay writing, world literature, social justice and critical thinking, After training in Gestalt Therapy and dream interpretation she practiced weekly group dream interpretation and monthly dreamwork forums in her living room as well as leadership in the International Association for the Study of Dreams and assisting in Human Awareness Institute workshops for thirty years. Her leisure activities included classical, modern and tap dancing, French cooking, writing poetry and hiking, as well as leadership roles in several Unitarian churches.

In Santa Cruz since 1998, she taught at UCSC and Cabrillo and engaged with activist groups, including Pachamama Alliance, as well as the seniors' performance groups Santa Cruz Follies and Next Stage Productions.

In 2018 she and her late-life partner Norman Brown, Ph.D. co-founded the non-profit Love and Power Institute for Planetary Sustainability to develop training in emotional intelligence, love of nature and dream interpretation for improving human nature and our stewardship of the earth. They also hiked for a month on pilgrim trails in France in their last three years together.

She is survived by two dogs and a cat, her beloved Norman and a step-daughter, two brothers and their four children and three grandchildren. On Feb. 15 her Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6401 Freedom Blvd. Aptos, will host a memorial service and reception from 2 to 4-4:30 pm. All are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, we suggest donations to http://loveandpowerinstitute.com.