

Sylvia Saunders

2 June 1930—18 September 2024

The Contra Costa Hills Hiking Club has lost another outstanding member. Sylvia, aged 94, died in San Francisco on Wednesday, September 18.



Annual Meeting, 17 Mar 2002, Tom and Sylvia in front row

Born near Fresno in Coalinga, she liked to tell friends how the town had been named by the Southern Pacific Railroad because it was a coaling station. A good student, she earned a scholarship to U. C. Berkeley from which she graduated. Sylvia travelled extensively, especially in Italy and Africa and worked as a consultant on public health issues. She married Tom Saunders who was a Democratic political consultant, and Sylvia was always a good person to ask about San Francisco politics. She joined the Contra Costa Hills Club in 1991; and Tom, who joined in 1992,

died in 2009. Many members remember meeting at her home on top of Dolores Heights with its beautiful garden and views of the San Francisco skyline and the Bay Bridge.

Sylvia was very active in our club and was responsible for putting together the first quarterly schedules that combined Thursday and Sunday hikes. She is especially remembered for the well-researched San Francisco hikes she led and was also a docent at the SF SPCA. An outstanding member of the Conservation Committee for many years, she will be especially missed. She leaves behind two stepdaughters, Ann Gordon and Kathy Saunders. Per Sylvia's wishes, there was no funeral.

Jo Anne Schultz



Conservation Meeting, March 2016, Jean Mock, Frank Belvin, Sylvia Saunders, Beryl Vonderheid, Nancy Stout, Kate Steinel, Phyllis Faircloth, and Madge Dimmick