



# IN MEMORIAM

## Patricia Sikes Sternberg

by Nina Garcia



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Patricia Sternberg, author, educator, drama therapist, theater director, socio-dramatist. Pat died of respiratory failure on June 23. Pat leaves three children, David, Ruth and Annie, who were by her side at her passing.

Those of us who knew Pat remember her ready sense of humor, her kindness, her optimism and her boundless energy. Pat was an inspiration and mentor to many in our field and in the field of theater.

Pat was Professor of theater at Hunter College from 1978 - 2005. She had a deep and abiding interest in providing theater experiences for underserved populations. She ran Hunter College's Mad Hatters, a theater group providing plays for young audiences. She authored and directed many of the plays she produced. Some of the children who attended had their first theater experience in watching a play of Pat's. She also gave acting classes for Hunter's disabled students in co-ordination with the Office of AccessABILITY. Several of those students also acted in her productions. She taught Theater for Therapeutic Uses as well to graduate students.

Pat was a superb collaborator as an author in theater and sociodrama. She co-wrote several historical plays for children with Dolly Beechman, one of which was *Sojourner*, about Sojourner Truth. She also co-authored *Sociodrama: Who's in Your Shoes?* and "Sociodrama" in *Current Approaches to Drama Therapy* with Nina Garcia. She also collaborated with composers on many musicals for children.

Pat, being the dynamo that she was, also authored many other books, notably for educators, drama therapists and psychodramatists, *Theatre for Conflict Resolution: In the Classroom and Beyond*. Pat was a Registered Drama Therapist/Board Certified Trainer. For many years, she sat on the Board of NADTA and, as Chair of the Certification Committee, was instrumental in creating the BCT category for drama therapists, the equivalent of psychodrama's TEP. She presented at many ASGPP and NADTA conferences.

Pat was a recipient of the Collaborator's Award from the ASGPP. She was also a recipient of the Gertrud Schattner Award for Lifetime Achievement from NADTA.