



## Cornelia Yvonne Levy

October 19, 1939 - November 13, 2020

Cornelia (Connie) Levy was born in Matamoros, Mexico. She attended St. Augustine High School in Laredo, Texas, where she graduated salutatorian in 1958. In 1961, Connie received a bachelor's degree in English and Literature from Texas Women's University. She then earned a master's degree in English and Speech at Texas A&I in 1966. After graduating with honors, Connie moved to Corpus Christi. While attending an evening of international folk dancing, she met her husband-to-be, Dr. Leon Levy, a research chemist from New York who had also recently moved to Corpus Christi. They married on February 17, 1968.

Connie's teaching career spanned 37 years, most of which were spent in Corpus Christi, first at Incarnate Word Academy and then at Mary Carroll High School where she taught English and Creative Writing for 14 years. While at Carroll, she also coached Academic Decathlon and produced the school's illustrious Creative Writing Magazine which received awards from the High School Press Association and the National Council of Teachers of English. In 1991, Connie was selected as Outstanding Humanities Teacher by the Texas Committee for the Humanities. That same year, she was honored as a Distinguished Teacher by the Corpus Christi Caller Times. In 1995, she was named Most Influential Teacher by Texas Scholar Seniors. These were only some of the accolades marking her distinguished career as an educator.

A ballet dancer as a young girl and the daughter of an opera singer, Connie always had a passion for the stage. While in college, she fell in love with theater and would go on to spend much of her life pursuing that love as an actress, director, choreographer and playwright. Over the years, she acted in numerous productions at Corpus Christi's Ritz Theater and Harbor Playhouse. Connie's final stage performances came in 1997, earning her that year's Harbor Playhouse Sammy Awards for Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress and Best Cameo Actress in three different productions.

After retiring from teaching, Connie spent four years leading a monthly creative writing group for adults, publishing a Writers Circle magazine each of those years. She and her

husband then moved to Austin where Connie turned her attention to writing a book. In 2013, her manuscript won the Historical Fiction Manuscript Contest at that year's Writers' League of Texas Agents and Editors Conference. Three years later, that manuscript would be published as a novel – PUERTO BAGDAD: SHIPWRECKED DREAMS. This was the culmination of a decade's work and was a dream-come-true for Connie.

Connie's life was filled with love – for her husband of 42 years, her family, her students and her friends, with whom she could often be seen sharing a meal at her beloved Waterloo Ice House, where she was a near-permanent fixture in recent years.

Connie died in Austin of complications from Covid-19. She was preceded in death by her husband, Leon, her two sisters, Genoveva Edmonia (Roberto) Montes and Crisanta Garcia, and her niece, Elisa Garcia. She is survived by two children, Dr. Elizabeth (Aqueel Darbar) Levy and Joseph (Lisa) Levy, three grandchildren, Aaron, Sarah and Sammy, and generations of students on whose lives she made an indelible impression. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Funeral for Cornelia Yvonne Levy When: Monday, Nov 16, 2020 12:00 PM Pacific Time/2:00pm Central Time (US and Canada) Register in advance for this meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-iqpzwrGNAOZ\\_RQPmygMFnQRGJPslfj](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-iqpzwrGNAOZ_RQPmygMFnQRGJPslfj) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# Comments

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“ I first met Connie at Texas A & I University, Kingsville, when we were both working on our Master's. We took some graduate English courses together and I quickly saw what a dedicated student she was. We became friends and I invited her to my home where she met my parents and siblings. Soon Connie became a member of our family -- a home away from home. While in Corpus Christi, she continued her friendship with my sister, Tulis, and my brother, Gene. Every time that she saw me, she asked about Tulis and Gene. I was so glad to resume my friendship with Connie when she moved to Austin and joined the AAUW Southwest Book Club. I would often pick her up on my way to the book talk and we would enjoy each other's company. I will miss my friend, Connie, as will all my family members. She was very brave after her beloved husband died. May she rest in peace knowing that she gave the best of herself to others.

**Inés García** - November 19, 2020 at 03:21 PM

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“ I am truly sorry Joseph and family on the lost of your Mother. Mrs. Levy was a wonderful teacher. She had a love of teaching. God bless you all. Love,  
Estela Smithwick  
Teacher of 30 years

**Estela Smithwick** - November 18, 2020 at 11:10 PM

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“ More than 30 years after having Mrs. Levy as a teacher at Carroll High School, I still remember her fondly. I had the wonderful experience of being in her English and Creative Writing classes. I had several pieces in the creative magazine that year, and I'm sure I still have a copy packed away among old keepsakes. Mrs. Levy was warm, enthusiastic, and encouraging. She loved reading and writing, and I loved learning from her. She was a favorite teacher! With warm regards to her family, Judy  
Archibald Lavery

**Judy Lavery** - November 17, 2020 at 11:41 PM

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“ I loved having Mrs. Levy for English and for Creative Writing at Carroll High School. She was a favorite teacher, and I always wanted to turn in my best work for her. She was warm, kind, and thoughtful, and passionate about all she did. Mrs. Levy often spoke with great pride about Elizabeth and Joseph too. A great lady!

**Jackie Archibald Snell** - November 17, 2020 at 11:00 PM

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“ I met Connie through the AAUW book club. Connie was multi-faceted and a delight to know. I will miss her terribly. My deepest condolences to the family. She was so proud of you and often shared tidbits about you.

**Anita Sylvia Garcia** - November 17, 2020 at 07:51 PM

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“ Connie was a member of our AAUW book club and we learned as much from each member as we did the books. Connie mentioned she had written a book and we were all so impressed we ask her to share her wisdom as a writer. We will all miss Connie's comments about her interesting life, her travels and her family. She always brought joy and a positive attitude to our meetings.

Mary Kate Fredriksen  
Austin Southwest Bookclub

**Mary Kate Fredriksen** - November 17, 2020 at 04:49 PM

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“ So sorry to hear of Connie's passing. I spent quite a bit of time talking with her at Lifetime. We'd sit in the hot tub after hydro class or chat poolside and she'd tell me about her life, her career, her parents/grandparents, husband, children and grandchildren, opera and her faith and then we'd talk about the book she was writing or her students. It was clear she had a brilliant life, one full of those who loved her and whom she loved. What I will remember about Connie is her innocence. She had the most glorious childlike nature and open heart while being so well read and knowledgeable about all manner of things. She was eager to learn, to share and was without guile. I loved her dearly and know she is alive and well in my heart and memories of her. God bless you all and may you live in the grace and memories of this dear woman.

**Joan Lazarus** - November 17, 2020 at 03:49 PM

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“ Oh, my dearest Mrs. Levy. I was a student teacher when I first met you and you treated me with grace, love and respect every step of my journey. I'm so grateful for you-my favorite time in my life was as a member of the Carroll Tiger Faculty. YOU were such an integral part of those magical days. Thank you. You will be missed

**Bonnie (Montoya) Bomar** - November 16, 2020 at 11:40 AM

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“ Thank you Mrs. Levy for making our world a kinder more hopeful place. I will carry your memory in my heart for the rest of my life. Thank you for teaching me to write and to look for the good in everyone I meet.

**Jacob Padilla** - November 15, 2020 at 12:01 PM

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“ So many memories with you Sra. Connie but always remembered your smile, your kindness and your love for me Every time that you called your sister Moña I used to remember my live( the kind of you talked to your sister) in México, we've been talking about our culture, songs and memories from México. I'll miss you



**Maricela Galván** - November 14, 2020 at 09:37 PM