



## Stella Branca

May 12, 1931 - May 26, 2020

Stella Branca (nee Steenkamp) was born in South Africa, and grew up in Cape Town. In 1998 she moved to Yucaipa, California where she lived with her daughter until 2011, at which time the family moved to Saratoga Springs, Utah.

As a young woman in the 1950's, she attended the University of Cape Town and the Toulouse Lautrec School of Art in Paris. Married to an Italian husband in 1956, they had three children. She was a member of the prestigious Afrikaans Writers Guild in South Africa, and has authored three books. Her passions included portrait painting, sculpture, classical piano and opera. She was an astute and successful business woman prior to retiring and moving to the United States, and was well-known and respected in the South African business community. She held a third dan black belt in karate and spoke five languages.

The paintings and sculptures Stella displayed in her home were the perfect backdrop for the many visits by friends anxious to hear the stories of her childhood and her many travels. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family who loved her wit, intelligence, kindness and generosity. She inspired her friends to share their ideas and creativity.

She is survived by her son, Willem, and daughter, Belinda Branca Van Fleet. She is preceded in death by her son, Jon, and grandson, Carlos. Stella was 89 years young.

Services will be held Saturday, May 30th at the LDS Stake Center at 163 E. Ring Road, Saratoga Springs, UT. There will be a reception starting at 10am where Stella's pictures and artwork will be displayed. The service will be held at 11am.

Her ashes will be taken to South Africa by her daughter and son-in-law as soon as travel permits. She will be laid to rest on the Steenkamp family farm in the North Western Cape region of South Africa.



# Comments

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“ Aunty Stella, what can I say. A 45 year relationship. Through both of our families trials and tribulations. You made a seminal contribution to my life. Too many memories to share here. A lifetime of memories. Rest peacefully. Until we meet again. All my love,always. Leana and Duncan family.

**Leana Duncan** - June 01 at 07:04 AM

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“ Auntie Stella was a great storyteller. We would sit enthralled with her stories about her and our Mother's school days at Huguenot Seminary in Wellington. She would tell us about the rationing during WW2 and how our Uncle Alex and his friends decided to build a bomb which the duly set off in the old quarry near their home. It apparently rocked the entire neighborhood and the army was called out because everyone thought it was an enemy attack. Auntie Stella could tell many tales of the antics of our uncle Alex. Our Mother was just so relieved that her sons didn't grow up like her brother.

When I was very young Auntie Stella had very long hair that our loved to comb. I think that was how she bribed my to sit still for a portrait she painted of me. We will always remember her with so much love and will think of her when we go for fish and chips at Snoekies in Hout Bay.

**Des Schultz** - May 30 at 10:43 AM

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“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your loved one.



**Armin Haselwanter** - May 30 at 02:35 AM

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“ CHRISTINA LANGEVELDT lit a candle in memory of Stella Branca



CHRISTINA LANGEVELDT - May 30 at 12:14 AM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Judy DeFelice - May 29 at 09:18 PM

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“ Hello from New Zealand  
I send my love to all those who know and love Stella, especially to Belinda, during this sad time. My favourite memory of Stella was her generosity .... especially with her Cadbury's chocolate. Belinda and I would come inside after hooning around on our bicycles and she would welcome us and offer us some of her favourite slab. I remember her as being warm, kind and welcoming and having a big, friendly smile. I never saw her angry, she was always content. May she be at peace surrounded by those who went before her, Rest In Peace dear Stella

tania trebett - May 29 at 03:18 PM



“ Stella... I could sit and listen to you for hours. The stories of your life and adventures were amazing. You have done what most dream of. You will be missed here on earth, but now it is your time to fly amongst the stars. I will keep your daughter close to my heart and we will think of you often. Until we meet again

cyndee ludington - May 30 at 12:17 AM