RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM

Carroll McClure Lewin
Associate Professor Emerita of Anthropology
University of Vermont College of Arts and Sciences
1942-2022

Dr. Carroll McClure Lewin, Associate Professor Emerita of Anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences, died in St. Louis Park, Minnesota on October 20, 2022.

Born in Minnesota, Carroll spent much of her childhood in New York City. She was a talented ballerina at a young age, developing a graceful confidence she was known for throughout her life. She graduated from Oberlin College in 1965, and immediately began graduate studies in Social Anthropology at Brandeis University to pursue her interest in kinship, social stratification, and gender in Middle Eastern societies. At Brandeis, Carroll was a protegé of Helen Codere, one of the first female anthropologists to hold a senior position in a university. Years later, Carroll facilitated the donation of her mentor’s papers to the University of Vermont. At Brandeis she also met her first husband, Steve Pastner, and together they conducted fieldwork in the Baluchistan region of Pakistan, among the Makrani Baluch. Carroll’s early research and writings focused on sexual dichotomization, marriage, and the practice of purdah, the seclusion of women.

In 1971, Carroll and Steve took jobs at the University of Vermont in the newly founded Anthropology Department. Throughout her career at UVM, Carroll worked in a part-time capacity, earning promotion to Associate Professor in 1977, with tenure granted in 1982. She published on a wide range of themes, including Islam, kinship, women and property, and ethnicity and social change. Beginning in the 1990s, Carroll shifted her attention to very different subject, the Holocaust, entering a new phase of scholarly productivity that carried her to her retirement in 2001. Her contribution to Holocaust Studies was to develop an anthropological framework for understanding the impact of violence on individual and collective memories, tensions between history and memory, and the role of narrativity in each of these contexts. Later she wrote on the topic of cultural nostalgia and public commemoration of the Holocaust, a theme she taught about often in one of her favorite courses, Museum Anthropology.

Carroll contributed broadly to campus life, as a founding member of the Women’s Studies Program, Chair of the Anthropology Department, member of various advisory boards, including the Fleming Museum and the Holocaust Studies Program, and on numerous standing committees that benefitted from her institutional experience and unflappable poise. Carroll is survived by her daughters Deb Pastner and Becky Pastner; grandchildren Elsie and Micah Smith; sister Susan Marchand; and her second husband, Shallom Lewin.