

Lorna Higgs. Died March 1st 2011.

An appreciation – Neville Young and Michael Poll

The Pretoria Centre of ASSA sadly notes the death of Lorna Higgs on March 1st 2011.

Lorna was a long time member of the Pretoria Centre, and, although over the past couple of years her lack of mobility prevented her from attending our monthly meetings, she was still a strong supporter of the Centre and took a keen interest in Centre affairs.

It can be said that the Centre owes a great deal to Lorna, and we admired her strength in coping with her disabilities - maybe though, she would not have described them as such. She was an inspiration to a number of our members.

Lorna joined the Pretoria Centre on July 1st 1993, and for about five years in the 1990s she was a member of the Centre Committee, being responsible for placement of meeting notices in the local newspapers and serving as Deputy Treasurer. She returned to the Committee in July 2003 until ill health forced her resignation in July 2008. Her input to the Committee was always helpful and appreciated, and she occasionally hosted Committee meetings at her home complete with tea, coffee and snacks, and generous hospitality.

Lorna chaired a number of the Centre monthly meetings, presented “What’s Up” on occasions, and gave several main topic talks. The subjects of her talks were quite varied, and included “The Death of Stars”, “Planet Earth – from Nebula until Now”, “Measurement of Time”, “How to Observe a Partial Solar Eclipse, and “Bright Stars and Some History” .

When possible, Lorna supported functions that the Centre organised, including a visit to Hartbeeshoek in 2000, and the ASSA Symposium at Aloe Ridge in 2002.

In 2008 Lorna received the Jack Bennett Award for services to the Pretoria Centre.

Lorna’s presence will be greatly missed by the Pretoria Centre. Condolences are expressed to her children, Richard and Guinevere.