

## INGRID E. LAUE, PhD (1935-2010)

Ingrid Elizabeth Laue (née England) immigrated to Canada in 1951 and came to British Columbia in 1953 where she obtained her PhD in Germanic Studies at UBC and was an instructor of German Language, Literature, and Women's Studies at Langara College. Ingrid has been published in journals and newspapers in the area of German-Canadian studies and German culture. *Canadian Living* magazine also published two articles: *In sickness and in health: the wife of an Alzheimer's victim shares thoughts from her personal diary* (Mar 1995) and *Halloween brew: Ingrid Laue treats a coven of friends to a feast of green ooze and worms at her annual Spooks Gathering* (Oct 2004). She also wrote *Pictorialism in the Fictional Miniatures of Albert Paris Gutersloh* (1996), a scholarly monograph highlighting the writer and painter Guetersloh's artistic duality by focusing on his fictional miniatures, i.e. the short prose works. A voracious reader, writer, published author, teacher, singer, chef, traveller, and mentor; Ingrid lived life to the fullest. Ingrid believed in education, hard work, perseverance, and imagination. Her generosity in so many ways elevated and enriched many lives.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacyremembers/ingrid-laue-obituary?id=45153146>

## INGRID LAUE

*Adapted from a retirement tribute by Judith Fairwood*

Ingrid Laue first came to Langara College in 1978 as a part-time German instructor in the German programme that had already begun the process of downsizing and had dwindled to one precarious full-time position. For most of her time Ingrid, as sole survivor, fought tenaciously and valiantly to maintain the remnants of her programme, always asserting that cutbacks, not lack of demand, were responsible for falling enrolments, and that the way to reverse the trend was to offer more sections, not fewer.

Ingrid continued to promote the interests of the programme she ran single-handedly. She constantly revamped and modernized her course material and attended conferences on innovative teaching methods which she incorporated into her classes. In addition, she organized a popular weekly drop-in, the "Thursday Club", where students could practise their German in an informal setting, such as playing games or watching movies. She was the Langara coordinator of a national programme called "Workflight to Germany", which enabled successful applicants to spend a summer working in Germany.

Ingrid and I shared office A345a for ten years, until B-Building was created, and she moved out. We had, of course, suffered the College-wide frustrations of overcrowding, especially after the policy of either three instructors or two-plus-computer was dropped, and we had our two selves and a succession of TBAs and the computer all crammed in with desks, bookcases, constantly ringing phone and needy students. It was fortunate, perhaps, that Ingrid and I had different habits and, often, opposite schedules, so that in some semesters we rarely saw each other. She--or so I'm told--often arrived from North Van in what to me was the middle of the night and was gone by early afternoon. When we did have an office hour at the same time, we were usually too busy marking, preparing, or dealing with students to chat much. Nevertheless, when Ingrid moved down to the second floor, although I enjoyed spreading my stuff over the whole office, I missed her very much. Shared jokes, opinions on new movies, glimpses into personal and family events ... all of these I had taken for granted, as well as exchanged views on how to handle students and teach languages. I also missed her visitors, who included numerous grateful and affectionate former students and a procession of "characters", some of them exceedingly bizarre, who were attracted to Ingrid's classes in disproportionate numbers. The young man who removed his artificial leg in class, for example....

If she was energetic and industrious on campus, Ingrid was equally so in the rest of her life, which was filled with social, cultural, and family activities as well the major challenges of completing her Ph.D. (1987) and publishing her dissertation (1996). From our brief conversations I learned also of anxieties, joys, and sorrows, as two granddaughters were expected and welcomed, husband George retired, and Ingrid battled health problems. Then tragedy, as George progressed through the stages of Alzheimer's disease, and died in 1994. Ingrid cared for him at home as long as she could, rushing home after classes and dreading each day that he might wander off or harm himself in the house during her absence. She later wrote of this painful time in a memoir which appeared in *Canadian Living*.

Ingrid's deteriorating eyesight, a complication of diabetes, had forced her to curtail some of her activities. She continued to teach as long as possible, even when she could no longer drive herself to work, but reluctantly took an extended sick leave in 1998 and then transitioned into retirement. Throughout her retirement she continued to indulge her passions--travel, opera, and the extra-curricular education of her granddaughters.