



Liziwe Kunene Pointer

Liziwe (Lizzie) Buitomelo Kunene Pointer passed away Friday morning, October 22, 2021 at 2 a.m. Lizzie - as she was called by her loving husband, Fritz Pointer - was born in Cape Town, South Africa October 8, 1956. She was an educator and dancer, whose life and service included expanding opportunities for young people to develop their skills and talents in the arts. She enjoyed travel, meeting new people, and giving generously of herself.

She spent the early years of her life growing up under apartheid rule in South Africa. In 1963, due to the intolerable apartheid system, her father, Dr. Daniel Pule Kunene, a professor and translator of African languages and literature, along with her mother, Selina, a registered nurse, moved Lizzie and her brother, Sipho to the United States.

The family spent a brief stay in London, England and after relocated to Los Angeles, California where Professor Kunene began a professorship at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). While in Los Angeles, Lizzie's brothers, Luyanda and Wandile, were born. In 1970, Professor Kunene accepted a teaching position at the University of Wisconsin and the Kunenes relocated to Madison, Wisconsin where Professor Kunene began a 33-year career in the department of African Languages and Literature, which would also become the department where Lizzie developed her passion for art and dance.

Lizzie attended the University of Wisconsin, receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Master's degrees in African Languages and Literature and African American Art History, under the guidance and watchful of eye of Dr. Freida High Tesfagiorgis. Following her matriculation, in 1977, she married Fritz Pointer and they moved to Decorah, Iowa, where she worked as a student advisor and counselor. She devoted her professional career to academic administration, promoting and expanding opportunities in the arts.

In 1984, with their children, Somori and Thiyane, Lizzie and Fritz moved to Novato, California. Lizzie worked as Dean of Students at California College of the Arts in Oakland, CA for 20 years. After retirement, she and her husband enjoyed international travel. One of the most touching experiences in her life was to return to South Africa in 1993 with her parents after the fall of apartheid and shortly before her mother's passing. Later, in 2013, she would return to South Africa with her family as her

father, Dr. Daniel Kunene, was bestowed an honorary degree by the University of Cape Town.

Lizzie was 65 years old at the time of her passing. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Professor Fritz Pointer; two beautiful sons, Somori and Thiyane, and their wives Tracy and Jackie, respectively; two stepchildren, Shegun and Nandi; and five grandchildren: Jadah, Len (aka Selina), Phoenix, Amaru, Daniel, and Kendrick. She is also survived by three brothers: Siphon Kunene (New York), Luyanda Kunene and his wife Linda Fowells (Los Angeles), and Wandile Kunene (Los Angeles); and a plethora of aunts, uncles, and cousins in South Africa, and many friends in the United States who loved her. Her family was her life.

Lizzie will be interred at Mount Tamalpais Cemetery in San Rafael, California.