

Paula Gunn Allen, b.1939, Laguna Pueblo/Sioux/Scots/Lebanese New Mexico native, passed away peacefully on the night of May 29, 2008 at her home in Fort Bragg, California, after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer. Family and friends were at her side.

This poet, philosopher, scholar, and teacher grew up in Cubero, New Mexico. She received her doctorate in American Studies from UNM in 1976; that dissertation evolved into *The Sacred Hoop: Recovering the Feminine in American Indian Traditions* (1986), a pioneering work in Native American, feminist, and GLB studies. She also edited the benchmark book for the MLA about teaching Native Studies: *Studies in American Indian Literature: Curriculum and Course Designs*. She was also a prolific writer of poems, fiction, essays; her last scholarly book, on *Pocahontas*, was a nominee for the National Book Award. She retired from UCLA in 1999, but always checked back into New Mexico, never stopped being a teacher and mentor, never stopped cracking and appreciating outrageous jokes and bad puns. (The last one she and I shared, about 3 weeks ago, was "Well, you know what they say: What happens in the Zuni Mountains stays in the Zuni mountains,,,"---oh, my, her laugh. )

Her posthumous volume of poems, *America The Beautiful*, will be published by West End Press within the year.

By Patricia Clark Smith, Professor Emerita, University of New Mexico