In Memoriam
Olga E. Kagan (1946-2018)

THOMAS J. GARZA

Our colleague, collaborator and friend, Olga Kagan, died in her Los Angeles home of leukemia on April 6, and it is with profound sadness and deep respect that we note her passing. Since 1981 Olga was a member of the UCLA faculty in Slavic, East European and Eurasian Languages and their International Institute, where she taught Russian, served as Undergraduate Advisor, and Coordinator of Language Programs. She served as Director of both the International Institute’s Center for World Languages, and the National Heritage Language Resource Center. The study and learning of heritage languages was one of Olga’s passions and primary research interests. She twice published on the subject in Russian Language Journal (vols. 60 and 62), and produced four textbooks for heritage speakers of Russian, including the popular Russian for Russians (2003). She also authored or co-authored seven Russian language textbooks and co-edited The Teaching and Learning of Slavic Languages and Cultures (2000), which was awarded AATSEEL’s 2001 Best Contribution to Pedagogy. Olga was also, from 1991 to 2010, an active and vibrant member of the Board of Directors of the American Council of Teachers of Russian. Her colleagues at ACTR, in the Russian and heritage language teaching profession, and in the larger fields of language pedagogy and second language acquisition mourn the loss of Olga. We will remember her as a consummate professional, a tireless educator and administrator, and prolific author. But we will most of all remember her bright, sparkling wit and the sense of humor that illuminated our profession.