TANIA FORTE, 46, eclectic, interdisciplinary, and creative cultural and political anthropologist, died of a cerebral aneurysm on November 17, 2005 in St. Paul. She was laid to rest at the Yarkon cemetery in Tel-Aviv on November 21, 2005. Tania was a true intellectual who questioned everything and accepted nothing as given. Her research crossed all the traditional boundaries and categories and combined areas as diverse as mathematics, philosophy, history, sociology, media studies and classics in a wide range of fields with a special emphasis on the Middle East in general and Israel-Palestine cooperation in particular. She will be remembered by all who knew
her - her colleagues, her students and her friends - for her boundless generosity and for being a brilliant scholar with an inquisitive mind, a beautiful soul, a huge heart and especially for her reverberating, infectious laugh.

Tania was born in London on April 12, 1959 and held a British passport even though she lived most of her life in France, the Netherlands, the United States and Israel. Although most of her research dealt with the concept of Identity, she didn't feel the need for passports or other identity cards in her personal life. Not too surprising for a woman whose grandparents came from Gaza, Turkey, Iraq and Italy and whose Egyptian-born parents were "asked" to leave Egypt in 1956 during the Suez war, lived in England for a few years, and then moved to France.

Tania found France and the French system of education to be too rigid and stifling and ran away to the US at the age of 17. She took her BA (1982-1985) at St. John's College in Annapolis reveling in the Great Books program that is the intellectual legacy of all the "Johnnies" who studied there. Tania went on for a Ph.D. in anthropology at the University of Chicago (1985-2000) where she completed her dissertation on the production of land and history in the Galilee. Her subsequent research dealt with the creation of images of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by international TV crews, and she was writing a book on the everyday life practices of three generations of Palestinian women. Tania received two prestigious post-doctoral fellowships in Israel: a Kreitman fellowship at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and a Lady Davis fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She taught at the Ben-Gurion University in Be'er Sheva, Israel and Macalester College and Hamline University in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Tania is survived by her parents Clément and Daisy, her sisters Allegra and Danielle and brothers Isaac and Max, and her nieces and
nephews in Paris, her extended family in Paris, New York and Israel and by countless colleagues and students who respected and loved her without limit as if she were family as well. Most importantly, Tania is survived by her two wonderful young sons Alex and Eytan Kaplan whom she loved more than life itself. Let them hold her memory in their hearts and may they develop into men of whom Tania would be proud. (Yishai Tobin)