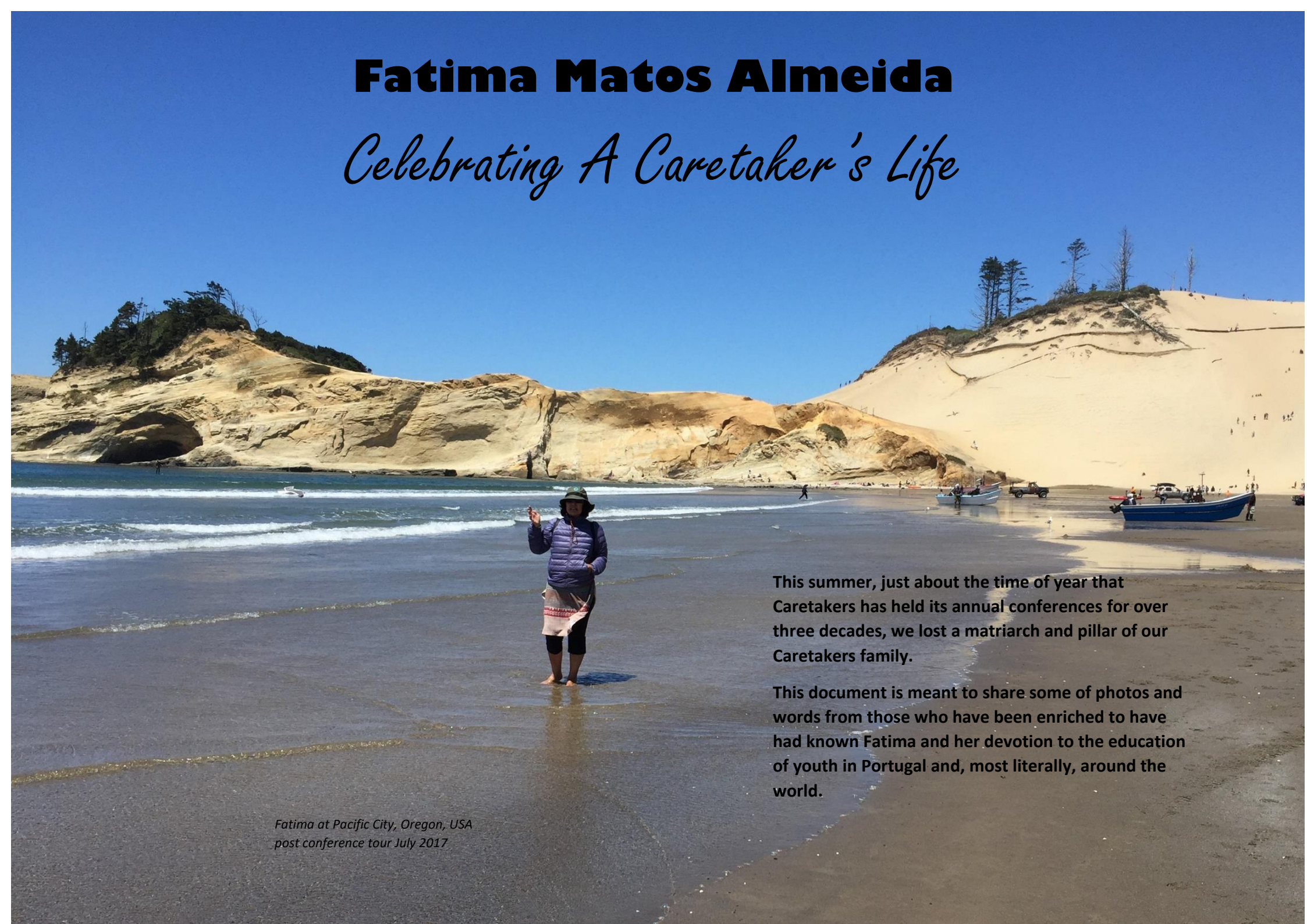


Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life



This summer, just about the time of year that Caretakers has held its annual conferences for over three decades, we lost a matriarch and pillar of our Caretakers family.

This document is meant to share some of photos and words from those who have been enriched to have had known Fatima and her devotion to the education of youth in Portugal and, most literally, around the world.

*Fatima at Pacific City, Oregon, USA
post conference tour July 2017*

Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

Back in the day....Fatima/ASPEA had me facilitate an Environmental Education workshop, *which necessitated a visit to her beloved country*. A RED OAK is being planted in Fatima's memory, in Nova Scotia.

Kate Graves
Caretakers Canada Branch

I met Fatima at the 1988 CEI conference in Spain and she told me that she was a teacher of deaf children. She explained that, in Portugal, the schools kept deaf children in classes separate from all other children. That was why their biggest problem was communication. She told me that, when she consulted with other teachers of the deaf, "We thought that, if we could have different subjects of curriculum repeating some vocabulary – it would be easier to memorize and to understand it. They chose an environmental theme and that was why they came to the CEI conference.

I later learned that Fatima guided her students on nature tours and had them ask students on their environment. In the process, the deaf students made friends with other students and became leaders when they planted trees on school property. I also learned that she helped establish the Portuguese CEI network.

I looked forward to seeing Fatima at yearly conferences because she was open to new ideas and fun-loving. We laughed a lot while on tours and in workshops. And I was delighted when evenings began with the chorus of Portuguese, who invited Caretakers to sing and dance.

How grateful I am for my friendship with Fatima and all the special moments we shared!

Isabel Abrams
Caretakers Co-Founder
Board Director of Communications

*Fatima, Ed, Joke, Andrew,
Isabel, Cris and Birgitta -
2004 Caretakers Board of
Directors Thessaloniki,
Greece*

CEI 2013 Scotland



Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

Fatima was the spirit of Caretakers. Her intelligence, friendliness and beauty affected all of us deeply for so many years. Her commitment to youth and the environment was unmatched and inspiring; thousands of young people from all over the world were touched by her presence. As a co-founder of ASPEA, the Portuguese Environmental Education NGO, she became a key figure in the Portuguese EE movement.

She will be dearly missed. My thoughts are with her son Hugo and her daughter Ana, whom many of you also know.

Take care,
Arjen Wals, Caretakers Co-Founder



*Fatima and Arjen at dinner by the sea
Lisboa, Portugal Summer 2019*

I was shocked to hear early in the morning from my son Arjen that Fatima had passed away.

She was a very good friend from the first time I met her in Portugal in 1991 in Lisbon to prepare for the Caretakers conference in 1992 in Portugal. Until now, we had contact first by fax, then by email and the last years by app. Fatima was such a sweet woman – intelligent – with many good ideas.

I will plant a tree for her and participate in a zoom memorial and hope many Caretakers will participate.

Take care-
Joke Wals, Caretakers Secretary Emeritus
Host of the First Caretakers Conference in the Netherlands

Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

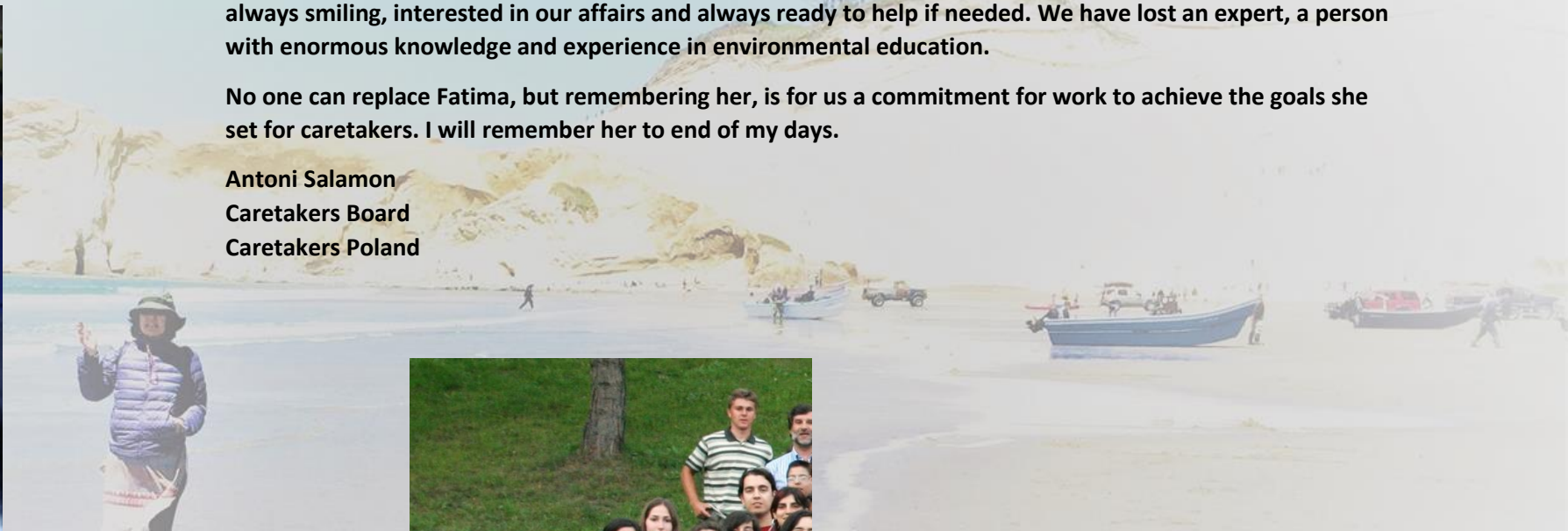
I will remember a long the beautiful moments we shared at numerous CEI conferences so many years ago, beginning from Heerlen, The Netherlands in 1996 to Turkey in 2019, through Macau in 2007, Fatima's place of birth where she was our guide in post conference trip. Fatima was a person extremely friendly to people, always smiling, interested in our affairs and always ready to help if needed. We have lost an expert, a person with enormous knowledge and experience in environmental education.

No one can replace Fatima, but remembering her, is for us a commitment for work to achieve the goals she set for caretakers. I will remember her to end of my days.

Antoni Salamon
Caretakers Board
Caretakers Poland



Fatima teaching teachers
ETIC 2008 Indonesia



Delegate group photo
Caretakers Poland 2006



Antoni, Barbara, Fatima,
Stien and Suryo – ETIC 2006 Indonesia

Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

Dear Fatima,

We first met you ten years ago in the Earth Charter + 10 Asia Pacific Region event, Taidung, Taiwan, 2010. Inspired by the Indigenous culture in Taiwan, you invited TESA to be a member of the CEI family since 2011. Furthermore, you encouraged and helped us host the 2014 CEI conference in the Green County Yilan in Taiwan.

Many of our high schools and young students have been inspired by you to join in caring for the Environment and following the Earth Charter.

Thank you and rest in peace!

Nancy Tzu-Mei Chen

Taiwan Ecological Stewardship Association

Fatima was an inspiring and amazing lady. In 2010 my parents and I had the privilege to know her in the Earth Charter event organized by TESA. Since then she became our family friend. Fatima was the key person who brought me and Taiwanese delegates to the CEI network. She was my mentor during my 10-years CEI journey. We will always remember Fatima's friendship and spirit, and her enthusiasm for the environment and society.

Ali, Chou-Li Lin

Taiwan Ecological Stewardship Association CEI Board member, Co-Coordinator of CEI 2014 Taiwan Conference



Fatima on the Drums Earth Charter 2011



Fatima with Board members and the Schimpffs in Istanbul



Fatima, Ilda, Mary & Ali:
Ladies' Luggage CEI 2014 Taiwan

Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

We got acquainted in 1996 during my first participation in the CEI. It was in Kerkrade, the Netherlands. Then we met in Ireland. The next meeting was in Hong Kong in 2006 after a long gap (we didn't come to CEI). Since then we have met with her at all the conferences.

Fatima is the person from whom I wanted to take an example in everything. She was a beautiful stylish woman. Very smart. With an active lifestyle. Everything was interesting to her - to learn the history of the country and its culture, to try an unusual food, to play national games, to participate in a master class, to make an unusual toy, etc. She possessed extraordinary charisma. She made a huge contribution to the organization and conduct of the CEI conferences. She could inspire all the conference participants to do good deeds. She was very self-sufficient and strong. She didn't need helpers, she could handle any business herself. With all this, she could laugh like a little girl, her eyes shone with kindness and benevolence. That is how I know Fatima. She will remain in my memory forever like that. It is a pity that she did not visit my country. She really wanted to. I cannot show her the beauty of my homeland now.

Marina Konopleva
Kirov School No. 28
Caretakers Russia



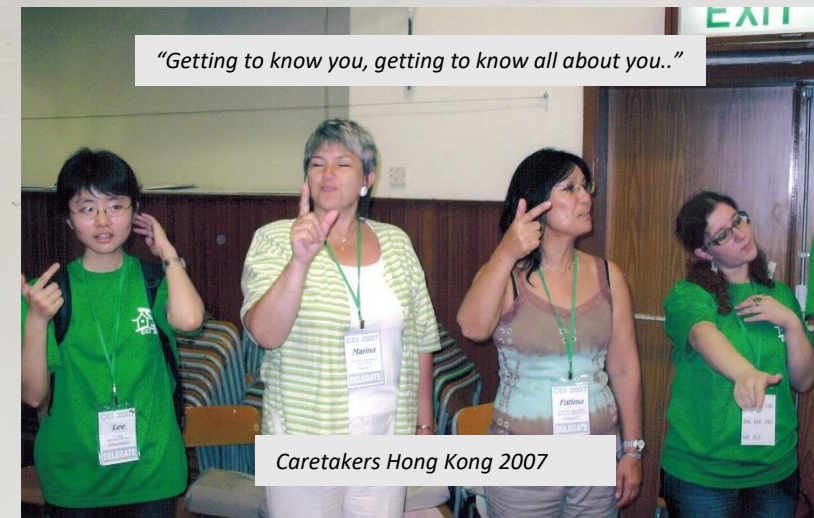
Gift of Homemade Honey from Kirov School – Closing 2019



Caretakers Ireland 1998



Caretakers Indonesia 2010



"Getting to know you, getting to know all about you.."

Caretakers Hong Kong 2007

Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

Fatima was an incredible inspiration to me. Her passion for environmental and social justice was monumental. She had so much wisdom in the ways she interacted with all Caretakers - Board, teachers, and students. I'm very sad she is gone, but so proud to have known and interacted with her and to be a part of this powerful movement through Caretakers of the Environment International. I am grieving for her and her family. I only knew Fatima and Ana, and through my interactions with the two of them, I know how significant and important the work we all do must carry on and continue.

I look forward to celebrating her life with you all. Fatima, you will never be forgotten, and your legacy will live on in all of us.

With sadness,
Ryan Kinnett
Caretakers USA



Fatima in the front row left as attending the most Caretakers conferences of any Caretaker. Wayne in front row center, Ryan in second row right – Monmouth, - Oregon 2017

We all miss her contagious smile and warm conversations about improving our part of the world's environment through her Earth Charter activities.

Wayne Schimpff
Caretakers USA

Ladies only on the bus! CEI 2017



Fatima Matos Almeida

Celebrating A Caretaker's Life

Fatima has always been a deep inspiration for me with her unique skills to inspire educators and youth with her ASPEA network, Earth Charter and Caretakers work. We enjoyed a good and growing friendship since first meeting her in Thessaloniki in 2004. Besides 16 years of annual Caretakers meetings, we enjoyed a great time in 2008 at the ETIC conference in Indonesia and in Montreal in 2011 at WEEC. Fatima's workshops we always impressive. Here in Oregon in 2017, she engaged an exceptional youth and educators alike in her workshop on Developing Careers from the Caretakers Experience.

Fatima and I agreed on most everything. If we didn't, Fatima had a gentle manner in helping me see things her way. She taught me how to return the favor. We enjoyed an honest and open 16-year friendship.

Fatima is now within the spirit and essence of our environment. From the sadness of her loss is the strength of having known her and therefore becoming a better Caretaker because of it.

Dan Hoynacki
Caretakers Board
Caretakers USA



Caretakers field trip 2019 Turkey



From the Forest in Oregon 2017



Fatima gives Dan a convincing argument in a 2017 teachers meeting