

**Jennifer Futernick Story Shared at Stella Patri Exhibit  
Reception – November 1st, 2025**

**This is a story shared by Jennifer Futernick about Stella Patri.**

Hello I am Jennifer Futernick and I am married to Bob Futernick, who is a bookbinder and conservator and used to be a student of Stella's, way back starting in the 70's. So I knew Stella, I met her when she was, I think, 70 and [I] went to her 100th birthday party. She lived to be 104 and a half.

I knew Stella as sort of an honorary grandmother. I knew her as someone who was a wonderful cook. She would make polenta with sausage and tomatoes, and she was known for her rocks which were very hard cookies infused with cinnamon.

But my Stella story is that I wrote a piece about Stella that was published in the San Francisco Examiner, and it was called *The Secret of Turning 100—It's No Fun*.

We loved Stella. I loved her. We are so—we were always so thrilled that she was such a grande dame and so "cool" and "hip" and "with it" even at a very old age.

But the story that often doesn't get told about Stella was that it was very hard for her to grow old. She couldn't read anymore and reading was so fundamental to her. She lost a lot of her health. She lost some of her senses.

But even still she was honest and real and we had this interview when she was 100. She bared her soul, shared her heart, and talked about all the people who she loved. She did not want me to sugar coat what it was like grow old So may we live to be 100—or 120 as they say—it's a jewish saying, but to do so is also to suffer.

Anyway, Stella ??? you, my life, my marriage, my home, my family, my circle of colleagues, so beautifully, mostly ??? cherish ???