

## Shirley Zebberman Goldsmith



Shirley Zebberman Goldsmith passed away peacefully on December 9<sup>th</sup> in her home in Rockville, Maryland, the home that she shared with her husband, Rabbi Manny Goldsmith.

Shirley was a force to be reckoned with. She touched so many lives in all she endeavored. She was a feminist before there was a name for it. An egalitarian activist who reveled in participating in all aspects of her synagogue community from Nova Scotia to New York to Maryland.

As the eldest child of Frank and Ada Zebberman, both immigrants to Canada, she was a dedicated daughter who adored her siblings; Bert (Brother), Helene and Paula. Her love of family has been a theme throughout her accomplished life. She was an active youngster and had a special relationship with her maternal grandfather, Tata. She spoke of Tata often like it was yesterday. She loved family, and taught her children love of family (didn't matter how 'extended'), but did have a special place for Tata.

In her role as a wife and young mother of five, (Beila, Garry z"l, Dawn, Miryawm and Tova) she always expressed her opinion but not before reminding you no matter what she loved you. After years as a homemaker she became a mature student accomplishing BA in Comparative Religion and Masters in Social Work. She was a voracious reader. She read everything and anything from sci fi to any type of fiction as well as all things Judaic. Her BA was in comparative religion and while her love of Judaism was foremost in her life, she was always curious. She read the Talmud in English when her children were young. When she decided to move to Israel her courage was put to the test. Having lived her whole life in Halifax, Nova Scotia, striking out on her own was remarkable. Making aliyah at her age not only showed her love for Israel but her incredible resilience.

When Manny chased after her in Israel and they married she began the life of as beloved and respected Rebbetzin. Together Manny and Shirley built a life filled with love, Yiddishkeit and of course, family. Manny gave her such a good life. She loved everything about his scholarly life, well, except the clutter of papers, but everything else! She would talk about the conferences they would attend together and how much she loved listening to Manny present, the conversations they would have, the people she would meet. She would scour the newspapers and many publications they subscribed to and circle the articles she felt Manny should read. She was a wonderful working partner for Manny in addition to their love. The addition of stepsiblings enriched her life, with Mirele & Rick, Leizer & Sharon, Rachel and Howard. She had more than enough love and patience for everybody. As Grandmother of 15 (Geoffrey, Evan, Alyssa, Brachie, Shuie, Yaacov, Shaina, Nachum, Beila, Max, Shira, Rayza, Shayna, Hadara and Adam) and great-grandmother to 12 beautiful children in Israel, Canada, and the US, they were all so special to her. She showed incredible capacity to love each and every one of them, let them all know just how special they each were to her no matter what distance may be between them.

She was always connected to her synagogue and gave generously of her time over the years. Shirley especially loved her Adat Shalom community.

As the Covid shutdowns were just starting, she sadly lost her son, Garry, and continued to reach out to his family and let them know she was here for them. She insisted she didn't mind the whole COVID scene being stuck inside since March though, as long as she had her books to read, a kindle in each hand, her tea, and Manny, she was happy.

Despite several serious battles with Cancer and other chronic conditions she remained optimistic, always smiling. In spite of her speech challenges she learned Skype, Facetime and Zoom - whatever apps that meant she could see her family.

Shirley was a trailblazer, a fearless defender, an optimist. She had a great sense of humour and loved to tell stories about the family for which we could spend hours laughing. She gave generously of herself, loved her family and especially Manny. She will be missed beyond measure but her memory will continue to inspire those who knew and loved her.