



SHIRLEY SCHREIDELL

January 21, 1924 - April 17, 2020

GRAVESIDE SERVICES: 1:00 PM MONDAY 4/20/2020 at CLOVER HILL PARK CEMETERY

Shirley Schreidell, 96, died on April 2020.

The youngest daughter of Hymen and Rachel Kaczka , she spent most of her life in the metro Detroit area. A highly regarded English teacher in the Detroit Public Schools for more than 30 years, Shirley loved teaching as much as her students loved learning from her. She greatly enjoyed her time at Vandenberg Middle School in northwest Detroit, and remained in touch with some of her students throughout her life. She also taught high school English for many years at Cooley High School.

Shirley's greatest loves, besides her son and family, were opera, ballet and literature. She exhibited talent as an opera singer as a young woman but determined that she would benefit more as an avid consumer of opera. She traveled throughout Europe in order to attend opera performances, seeing Luciano Pavarotti in person at least a dozen times, both in Europe and in New York. She had a voluminous collection of opera records, and many videotapes of her favorite operas, ballet performances and movies. She also had a very large collection of classic and modern literature, biographies of movie, opera and ballet stars, and was proudly the first customer of Book Beat Bookstore, a local independent book store a block from her home in Oak Park, MI as she was a voracious reader. In her younger years she was a great letter writer, writing and receiving responses from movie and opera stars as varied as Laurence Olivier, Pavarotti and many, many others.

Surprisingly Shirley was a die-hard sports fan, especially an avid fan of The University of Michigan sports. She loved football, basketball, baseball as well as hockey. She could quote statistics, a great memory of the various World Series, Super Bowls, NBA finals and the Stanley Cup Playoffs. She had her favorite players in many sports and could hold a conversation with anyone for hours.

Shirley was blessed with a wonderful memory until the end. She remembered everything in incredible detail. She was a great storyteller especially regarding her immediate family. She would often start to laugh so hard while telling a story that she couldn't always finish.

Shirley, a vivacious red head, highly valued her friends, many of whom she met on her travels to Europe and New York. She maintained those friendships until the end of her life. She will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her.

Family members include:

Beloved son Robert Rubinstein. Cherished great aunt of Michael (Maria) Fox, Karen (Rick) Halberg, Debbie Horwitz, Nancy Shayne, Patti Shayne, Denise (Phillip Rivers) Solis, Ryan and Randy Riley. Aunt to Jane Shayne, Rochelle Riley, Sherwin Maslowe and Rochelle Kessler. She was survived and admired by many loving great, great and numerous great, great, great nieces and nephews. She also leaves her lifelong friend Florence Yorke, who grew up with Shirley and cherished her friendship for over 80 years. Preceded in death by her brother Phillip (Ethel) Kessler, sister Ida (Abe) Shayne, and sister Belle (Percy) Maslowe. Aunt to Sidney Shayne and aunt to Suzanne (Harold) Tobin.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Yisroel Goldfein

INTERMENT:

Clover Hill Park Cemetery

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva privately

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of

SHIRLEY SCHREIDELL

you may do so by making a contribution to:

METROPOLITAN OPERA

www.metopera.org

or

JEWISH SENIOR LIFE

15000 W 10 Mile Rd,

Oak Park, MI 48237

248. 661.1836

www.jslmi.org

or

A CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE

Cemetery

Events

Clover Hill Park Cemetery

2425 East 14 Mile Road

Birmingham, MI, 48009

APR 20

Service

01:00PM

Clover Hill Park Cemetery

2425 East 14 Mile Road, Birmingham, MI, US, 48009

Comments



“ I met Shirley Schreidell when we were both teaching at Vandenberg. We remained dear friends until her death. She was probably the most well read person I have ever known.

She loved opera and concerts which we attended together and she became part of my family. She had a fantastic memory and could recall where and when she had seen or heard a performance. Shirley loved sports and would watch a football game while listening to Metropolitan Opera on the radio. Shirley loved her students and they loved her.

I miss her and always think of her when I hear beautiful music.

Shirley Benyas - January 05 at 11:45 AM



“ I was a student of Mrs. Schreidell at Cooley High School in 1969-70. She was one of my favorite teachers. She was a fabulous teacher and was SO funny. I enjoyed reading in the obituary that she was a great storyteller because I can still remember several of the stories that she told us in class. One of the things that she told us was how much she loved Paul Newman. One year she asked us to write an essay about what we would have liked to receive as a Christmas gift. I don't remember what I said I wanted but I said that if I was going to get a gift for Mrs. Schreidell, it would have been an autographed picture of Paul Newman. When I got the paper back, she kissed the paper, leaving a big lip print; she must have put on 3 layers of red lipstick because it was very bright.

I really loved her and tried to get back in touch with her a number of years ago but was unable to; I very much regret that because I would have loved to see her again. Please accept my condolences for your loss.

Johanna Wittbracht - April 24, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ As a former Cooley student, I'm so sorry to learn of her passing. May her memory be a blessing.

Steve Zieman - April 25, 2020 at 11:17 AM



“ She was a dear friend of Nina drolias they use to go to the opera Nina drolias sends her deepest regards

Neal Victor - April 20, 2020 at 03:19 PM



“ Those dimples. That hair. Those chic clothes. And the stories. Oh, the stories, told with a giggle or full-throated laugh that made us chuckle, no matter how many times we'd heard them. She loved recounting what a horrid smart-mouthed little girl I was (she was right) and served as a historian for our family. Although she wasn't literally my aunt, she earned the title through her lifelong friendship with my mother, Florence Yorke. They shared memories from Central High School and Wayne State (before it was Wayne State), marriages, divorces, children, teaching, a shared love of the arts (especially classical music and opera), literature, and more. She and my mother spoke daily on the phone, right up until the end.

I'm so lucky to have had Tante S in my life. She enriched it with her joie de vivre and stellar literary recommendations. And love. Lots of love.

Shelley Rose - April 19, 2020 at 08:40 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shelley Rose - April 19, 2020 at 08:31 AM



“ Shirley was a dear, dear friend, whom I met in the 1960's when we were both teaching at the Vandenberg School. We spent many memorable times together at plays, recitals, concerts and operas. Shirley became a close friend of my family. I will miss her and remember the wonderful times we spent together
Shirley Benyas

Shirley Benyas - April 18, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Shirley was my mother's (also a Shirley) best friend, and probably one of the sharpest people she knew. I've known her all my life. She was an amazing human being. She always asked about and loved to see my older brother and I when we were young, and then our families as we grew older. There are so many great stories and memories, but one of my favorites was when she accompanied my parents one time when they drove to Chicago to see me. She was probably coming to see something at Lyric Opera of Chicago. At the end of the trip, my wonderful late father, Bob, said to her, "Shirley, you're the only person I know who can talk for 250 miles!" I enjoyed talking to her about books, opera, and Michigan football. I will miss her.
--Eddie Benyas, Carbondale, Illinois

Eddie Benyas - April 18, 2020 at 03:44 PM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of the the passing of Shirley Schreidell. I think back to those childhood days in her classroom and once again realize how fortunate I was to have her as my teacher and as my friend. She instilled in me her passion for history that led me to pursue in my later years a masters and doctorate in this field. I wish I could have told her this and thanked her for all that she had done for me. When I think of Vandenberg Elementary School my mind is always drawn first to her classroom. Ms. Schreidell will live on through our collective “mystic chords of memory.” May her soul be bound up in the bond of life.

Dennis R. Laffer, MD, PhD - April 18, 2020 at 02:44 PM



“ She was the best teacher - certainly the best history teacher - from K-12. She challenged and encouraged me in new and exciting ways and fostered an appreciation for detail and nuance in understanding history. Her "10 Words a Week" homework and quizzes expanded my vocabulary (I remember learning "inundate" and "antediluvian" and "prescient") and she expanded our political awareness. Marty Singer

marty singer - April 18, 2020 at 10:24 AM



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Dennis R. Laffer, MD, PhD - April 18, 2020 at 02:07 PM