



Judith Meisel

February 7, 1929 - November 3, 2020

Judith (Beker Cohen) Meisel, age 91, passed away peacefully at home on November 3, 2020 in St. Louis Park, MN. She was born in Lithuania to Mina and Osser Beker, and survived the Holocaust in the Kovno ghetto and eventually the Stutthoff Concentration Camp where her mother was murdered in the gas chamber. She and her sister, Rachel, escaped during a death march in 1945 as the Russians were advancing towards the Camp. She was 16 years old when she was liberated in Denmark. More than 75 years later, Judy provided key witness testimony in recent German indictments and trials of SS guards from Stutthoff. Her amazing story of survival can be found at <http://www.judymeisel.com>. Her life story as a Holocaust survivor, educator, speaker and activist was chronicled in a documentary film, *Tak for Alt*. She was steadfast and outspoken in her pursuit of justice, sharing her story as a lesson to fight hatred, bigotry and indifference. Her favorite expression was, "I hate hate." She previously lived in Philadelphia and Santa Barbara, where she was a renowned preschool director and teacher. Judy is predeceased, in addition to her parents, by her loving husband, Fred Meisel; her sister, Rachel Levitin and Rachel's husband, Josfa; her brother, Abe Beker; and son-in-law, Samuel Tucker. She is survived by her three children, Mina (Jeffrey Berenson) Cohen of Mendocino, CA, Michael (Soni) Cohen of St. Louis Park, MN and Debby Tucker of Potomac, MD. She is also survived by her stepdaughters, Alexandra (Jonathan) Bricklin and Rene Meisel; and her sister-in-law, Simmie Beker of Toronto. Her deepest pride were her grandchildren who called her Savta: Elana (Yakov) Pesah of Jerusalem, Yael (Ben) White of Chicago, IL, Aaron (Katherine Clark) Cohen of Astoria, Queens, NY, Ben (Erin) Cohen of Brooklyn, NY, Seth Tucker of Silver Spring, MD and Jennifer (Matthew) Shopsin of San Carlos, CA. She also is survived by her step-granddaughter, Rebecca Bricklin. Judy's biggest joy were her great-grandchildren, Mira and Rafa Clark Cohen, Ada and Eleanor White, Aaron, Chana, Shmuel, Yisroel and Rivka Pesah; and Rachel Shopsin. She will be missed by nieces, nephews and friends who became "family" especially after losing so many of her own relatives in the Holocaust. Judy had a large number of "closest friends" and was only 2 or 3 degrees of separation from thousands of people. There was always a seat available for guests at her table for a Shabbat meal or holiday dinner. Her mock chopped liver, schnecken and meringue cookies were legendary. Judy will be missed by many as she touched so many lives with her empathic ability to

connect with anyone that she left a large special imprint on the world. Burial will be a private graveside service due to Covid-19. A larger memorial tribute will be held in the future post-pandemic. In lieu of flowers please make a donation in her memory to The Judy Project at <http://www.judymeisel.com>. This will help ensure that her story continues to be shared with future generations through new film and multimedia works. Judy was a lifelong supporter of the Anti-Defamation League so contributions are also welcomed in her memory to the ADL of Santa Barbara or the JCRC of Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Comments



“ Judith came to Altoona, Pennsylvania for many years. She spoke at High Schools and Universities with a hectic schedule. She came to the Celebrate Diversity Program where her film, “Tak for Alt” was shown followed by her personal story that touched every student. Her warmth was powerful and her call to not be a bystander was moving. I had the pleasure of driving her to many of her engagements and spent a week with her and her husband Fred in Santa Barbara. She spoke in my classroom and I adored her. So sorry to know she is no longer with us. It’s a great loss to the world, but her influence will be ever lasting. Sending love and sympathy to friends and family.



Jan L. Housman - November 16, 2020 at 05:31 PM



“ What a special lady Judy was! I have a portfolio filled with newspaper articles about her from the time she brought cookies to the family in Folcroft, PA. I believe that was the beginning of her activism. Many years ago while I was visiting Ted in Los Angeles we called her in Santa Barbara. She said, "Please come up to visit. Ruchel is here." We took Carol Backer (Beker) and were treated to a Judy dinner - fabulous! May her memory be for a blessing

Mimi Spitalnick - November 14 at 5:35 p.m.

Mimi Spitalnick - November 14, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ JUAN MONTENEGRO lit a candle in memory of Judith Meisel



JUAN MONTENEGRO - November 06, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ I’m so sorry for your loss. My son, Michael Winston was a close friend of Ben’s. What an incredible woman Judy was. Her legacy of strength and courage will always be remembered. May her memory be for a blessing. Warmly, Mona Austrian

Mona Austrian - November 05, 2020 at 10:03 AM



“ Marilyn Hartman lit a candle in memory of Judith Meisel



Marilyn Hartman - November 04, 2020 at 11:29 PM



“ The FBI’s Minneapolis Field Office was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Judith Meisel. We send our deepest condolences to the family and will always remember her for her strength, grace and endless pursuit of justice. Our office was honored to present Judy with the FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award in 2018 and will always remember her for the remarkable life she lived.



FBI Minneapolis - November 04, 2020 at 10:43 PM



“Savta Judy” with her great grandchildren Mira and Rafael



Katherine Clark - November 04, 2020 at 09:06 PM



“Peggy Kane lit a candle in memory of Judith Meisel



Peggy Kane - November 04, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“Judy and I became friends fifty five years ago when she realized I had large freezer in my basement. Once a week we would giggle, and gossip as she placed her freshly baked cookies in the bottom shelf which was reserved for her. The cookies were always meant to be given away to her friends! I adored Judy. I feel lucky to have her friendship for so many years.

Beverly Diamond - November 04, 2020 at 09:00 AM



“To Michela And sonni
I was so shocked to here about Judy. I will miss her bondal bread so yummy. Love
Lynn and Bill



lynn krupp - November 03, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Seth Tucker - November 03, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ Steve and I are so sorry for your loss. It was a pleasure to know your mom/grandma. She and my mom got along so well and I loved the multigenerational family connections. May her memory be a blessing to all of the family. Wendy and Steve Baldinger

Wendy Baldinger - November 03, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Susanhelenabzug lit a candle in memory of Judith Meisel



Susanhelenabzug - November 03, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Judy's passing. She was so dedicated to the cause of justice. She and my Mom, Marj Shark, were very close when Mom was also at Knollwood. They attended many classes together and enjoyed each other's company. May her memory be a blessing.

Jan Frisch - November 03, 2020 at 04:54 PM



“ My deepest condolences for your loss Michael, Soni, Aaron, Ben and family. Judy was an amazing spirit and an her story and perseverance was (and will continue to be) an inspiration for myself and so many others. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Mike Thomas Kronenberg - November 03, 2020 at 04:39 PM



“ LA SOCIEDAD ECUATORIANA DE PSIQUIATRIA BIOLOGICA
SE UNE AL SENTIMIENTO DE PESAR POR EL FALLECIMIENTO DE TAN DISTINGUIDA
DAMA

JUAN MONTENEGRO - November 06, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ Michael, Soni, Ben and Aaron,

Susie and I were so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother and grandmother.

May her memory only be for a blessing.

Leslie Fishman

Leslie Fishman - November 10, 2020 at 05:34 PM