



Shirley Berdie

February 2, 1925 - November 24, 2018

Shirley Sher Berdie, 93, formerly of Duluth, Minnesota and Asheville, North Carolina died on November 24th in St. Paul. Shirley was preceded in death by husband, John; parents, Joe & Pearl (Siegal) Sher; brother, Alvin (Rona) Sher; and sister-in-law, Shelby Sher. Survived by her brother, Gerald; children, Mitchell (Stephanie), Craig (Sharon Christensen) and Reine Shiffman (Sam); grandchildren, Ian, Anne (Marco Volcker), Jessie (Joe Bergman), Lisa and Joel; great-grandchildren, Jose and Pablo Volcker, Eliana Bergman and many loving nieces and nephews. Shirley was born on February 2nd, 1925. Raised in Duluth, Shirley spent many summers with her mother's family in Birmingham, AL. After graduating from Central High School, she moved to Minneapolis. Shirley returned to Duluth and married John Berdie in 1946. Together they raised three children. Shirley was a consummate volunteer, honoring her Jewish tradition of making the world a better place. She led the Duluth Section of the Council of Jewish Women in the 1950s and was active in the League of Women Voters, serving as its chair from 1963-65. She also appeared with the Duluth Playhouse in several productions. In 1961 Shirley returned to college, earning her certification to teach elementary education. She taught in the Duluth School System for 20 years before retiring to Asheville with John. In Asheville Shirley remained active, volunteering for many organizations, and once again serving as local president of the League of Women Voters. As a testament to her many endeavors, she was nominated as Woman of the Year within a short time of arriving in Asheville. In her leisure time Shirley enjoyed taking classes at the College for Senior's, participating in theater readings, entertaining friends and visiting family, swimming at the Grove Park Inn, and occasionally hitting the links. Memorial service will be held 2pm TUESDAY, November 27TH, 2018 at MOUNT ZION TEMPLE, 1300 Summit Avenue, St Paul, MN 55105. In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to League of Women Voters or donor's favorite charity. SHIVA 7PM Tuesday at Reine's home. A second gathering will be held on Sunday, December 2nd, location and time to be announced.

Events

NOV	Memorial Service	02:00PM
27	<hr/>	
	Mount Zion Temple	
	1300 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN, US	

Comments



“ Shirley and John were the first people to welcome us to Asheville in 1996! They were such a sweet and loving couple. We attended a welcome dinner in their home shortly after arriving in our beautiful mountains. I missed her each Friday Shabbat sitting behind us. She will be missed by all of us who loved her.

Dionne Kempenich - November 30 at 12:09 PM



“ Shirley and John were such good friends of my Dad, Hyman Dave who thought the world of both. They were very special folks who will long be remembered. Ellen Knoefel

Ellen Knoefel - November 29 at 08:10 PM



“ I was Shirley's Rabbi in Asheville before she moved to MN. She donated John's American Flag presented to her by the Armed Forces at his funeral to our congregation so long as we promised to use it. We take it out every year at Veterans' Day services in honor of those who served and their families. Both Shirley and John will always be remembered for that.
Rabbi Batsheva H Meiri

Meiri Batsheva - November 29 at 12:17 PM



“ Shirley and John were like a second set of parents to me while they lived in Asheville. Shirley particularly was a mentor and encourager to me on the path of public service. Reine, she spoke so often of you and all her children and grandchildren. She was so proud of you all and everyone who came into contact with her felt her love of community and family. She and John made community happen wherever they went. Thank you for sharing Shirley and John with us in Asheville. I am holding you all in love and light.
-Rep. Susan C. Fisher



Susan C Fisher - November 27 at 10:15 PM



“ Shirley and John were good friends and wonderful volunteers in Asheville. I think of them both often and fondly. Prayers and hugs for their family. You have much to be proud of. Karen cragnolin

Karen cragnolin - November 27 at 12:05 PM



“ Reine - So sorry to read about the passing of your mother. My thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Geri Serber Sweet - November 26 at 07:44 PM



“ Marilyn Hartman lit a candle in memory of Shirley Berdie



Marilyn Hartman - November 26 at 06:05 PM



“ Reine,
Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your mother. What a wonderful life she led. You were truly blessed.
Cynthia Rosenblatt

cynthia s rosenblatt - November 26 at 11:31 AM



“ Jerry, very sorry to hear of Shirley's passing. She and John were best friends of my parents Sam and Bertha. My thoughts go out to you. Mike Horowitz

michael p horowitz - November 25 at 05:29 PM



“ Shirley, Rita Karsner Margulies and I were inseparable friends from the age of 5 until we married and went our separate ways. However, we never forgot each others birthdays. and there were occasions when we managed to visit Duluth at the same time

Rita left us a few years ago while living in Israel. Shirley came to Cleveland for my 85th birthday - 9 years ago. And, last year I visited her in Minneapolis.

To all of her family, along with the tears let us celebrate the memorable times we had with her and the wonderful life of service she led.

Donna Karon Yanowitz
Beachwood, Ohio

Donna Karon Yanowitz - November 25 at 03:30 PM



“ Shirley was a classmate at UMD---one of the non-traditional students whose life experiences we envied because they knew more about children than some of the instructors. She was a true leader in the community, in the school district, and in her faith. Shirley inspired us all to stand up for what we believed in and to be better teachers and people.

Barb Arel - November 26 at 08:19 AM



“ Shirley was one of my favorite cousins (related on both sides of our families). She was outgoing, friendly, a true family member, and someone who could enjoy with nearly everyone. She will be missed.

Phillip Sher - November 27 at 07:30 AM



“ Shirley and John were great friends of my parents. Shirley remained close with my mother during her years in Asheville, and upon her move back to Minnesota. My mother valued her friendship very much. She felt a kinship with Shirley, as they were both educators, intellectuals, liberals, and progressives. Relish all of the wonderful memories you have of her and your father! They left you quite a legacy.

Anita Lurye-Silver - November 27 at 02:31 PM



“ Shirley and John meant so much to me. She supported me in my LWV of Asheville/Buncombe County presidency and they both gave so much to the Asheville community. I treasure my memories of Shirley's drive and beauty and spirit. She was a mentor to many of us. She and John were an incredible team. Love to their family. So much to celebrate all that they gave to this world.

Julie Fields - November 27 at 08:00 PM