



Helen Gorelick

October 21, 2019

Helen Schwanger Gorelick passed away peacefully at the age of 96 on October 21, 2019 at Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry where she had lived for the past four years. She is survived by her loving husband, Jack and three children, James Russell and Deb Wolf of Lancaster, Pa, Michael and Ellen Carter Gorelick of Phoenicia and Anna and Paul Sterne of Dobbs Ferry. A resident of NYC since 1949 she was a frequent visitor to Dobbs Ferry and was a constant figure in the lives of the four Sterne grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by Rachel and Max Haot, Erica and Zahir McGhee, Katie and Brent Gunderson and Ben Sterne, as well as, by their many friends who knew her as Nana. She will also be missed by grandchildren, Jolene Wolf Harrison, Tina Wolf Groff, Katie Lynn Wolf, Tiffany Wolf Buckwalter and Sylvia Gorelick. In addition, she will be greatly missed by her sister and brother in law, Barbara and Ernie Florio of Media, Pa and nieces, Marsha Florio and Julie Soriero of Cambridge, Mass. She is also survived by 9 great grandchildren.

Born outside Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, on April 12, 1923. She was raised by her grandparents Tillman and Barbara Alice, a blacksmith and a midwife in the Mennonite Church though she never officially joined. She excelled in her one-room schoolhouse, and graduated Elizabethtown High School two years early. Helen worked as a maid and nanny for a well-to-do family in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and then later began working at the RCA plant in Lancaster. She became active in the Union of Electrical Workers. There she met Jack Gorelick, an organizer for the union. Helen married Jack on November 26, 1948. In 1949 they moved to New York City. Helen worked in Macy's until she started a family. In 1958 Helen began attending classes at City College of New York, while working as a nursery school teacher. She also studied with a rabbi to convert to Judaism. In 1967 Helen graduated college and began teaching kindergarten at PS 113 in Harlem, where she remained for 25 years. Helen received a Master's in Education at Columbia Teachers College.

Helen loved Balzac, gardening, traveling, Rachel Maddow, museums, carnival glass, and shrimp. She hated cats and racism. Helen was proud of having integrated a swimming

pool at a Lancaster park in 1948. She will be missed by family and many friends.

Anna and Paul will be sitting shiva Thursday, October 24, 2019 and Friday, October 25, 2019 from 4:00pm to 9:00pm at their home on Cricket Lane.

The Memorial for Helen Gorelick will be Sunday, November 24 at 2pm at the Union Temple of Brooklyn 17 Eastern Parkway Brooklyn NY 11238. A reception will follow at the Brooklyn Public Library across the street.

Comments



“ When I was a new kindergarten teacher at PS 113 in Harlem I had never been in a classroom before (except as a student), had no coursework in teaching, and had no idea where to begin. Helen took me under her wing, invited me to have lunch with her every day and spend every free minute watching her work her magic in the classroom. There is no way on this planet that I would have remained in education if it hadn't been for her patience, kindness, and guidance. I treasure those memories. I'm sure she will be missed by many.

Eileen Marzola

Eileen S Marzola - October 29 at 08:09 PM



“ You know Mom thought the world of you!

Anna - October 30 at 10:45 AM



“ What a beautiful person, beautiful soul. You will be so missed at Cabrini of Westchester.

Patricia Elliott - October 23 at 07:24 PM



“ Thank you for all of the caring and support for Mom and me.

Anna - October 30 at 10:46 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Edwards-Dowdle Funeral Home - October 23 at 10:30 AM