

PJB 12-8-10

PROVIDENCE

EPSTEIN, BARBARA,

died Dec. 6, 2010 in Providence, Rhode Island at age 80 of complications of heart disease. She bore her final illness with remarkable stoicism. Barbara was born and raised in Sydney, Nova Scotia, the only child of the late Gordon and Lillian (Becker) Elman.

She attended Wellesley College, (Class of 1951), majoring in political science, where she was extremely active in campus life and made lifelong friends. Barbara entered Wellesley a year younger than her classmates, yet attained Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year.

On graduation, she married Dr. Nathan Epstein, also of Cape Breton Island, and began the first of their four city journeys together in New York City where she gave birth to daughters Tobe and Nancy. They moved to Montreal while Nate began his academic career at McGill and Barbara gave birth to their third daughter Jane. Barbara became a discerning art collector while raising a young family. Typically, she was very active in the community, running the Wellesley Club of Montreal and serving on the Board of the Baron de Hirsch Society.

They next moved to Hamilton, Ontario where Barbara completed a Master's degree in political science at McMaster University and was active in fundraising, rising to the position of Vice Chairman of United Israel Appeal for Canada. Their final move in 1977 was to Providence, Rhode Island. Here, Barbara became involved at Brown University: helping organize a furniture exchange for international graduate students and serving on committees for Hillel.

In addition, she pursued her lifelong love of books by volunteering extensively at The Athenaeum library. In 2007, she and Nate moved into the retirement community of Laurelmead, where she made new friends and rediscovered her passion for bridge. She was a relentless completer of New York Times crosswords and a critical thinker in politics with firm opinions. She was also a devoted - and opinionated - mother, grandmother, wife, aunt, sister-in-law, cousin and friend.

She is survived by her husband Nate; her daughters Tobe (Joel Barad), Nancy (David Goldbloom), and Jane; her grandchildren Daniel, Will, Gordon and Lillian.

The funeral service will be at 2:00 pm, TODAY, Wednesday, Dec. 8 at Temple Emanu-El. Shiva will be held at the Epstein home from 7:00 to 9:00 pm that night. Donations in Barbara's honor may be made to Wellesley College or Home & Hospice care of Rhode Island, 1085 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904, (401) 415-4200, www.HHCRI.org. Arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.