

PROVIDENCE

Epstein, Dr. Nathan B.

Nathan Bernic Epstein (March 3, 1924 – October 8, 2020). He was born to the late Benny and Shayna (Bernick) Epstein in New Waterford, Nova Scotia. He is predeceased by his wife, Barbara (Elman), his parents, his brother Bucky, his sister-in-law Madeleine Epstein and brother-in-law Vevy Leith. He is survived by his daughters Anne Tobe (Joel Barad), Nancy (David Goldbloom), and Jane. He is also survived by his older sister Fae, his grandchildren Daniel (Jessica Duffin Wolfe), William (Zachary Russell), Gordon, and Lee, as well as his great-grandchildren Wolf and Kensington. He leaves his nieces, nephews, and their children as well as true friends near and far.

Raised on Cape Breton Island in its small but vibrant Jewish community, he left to attend Mount Allison University as an undergraduate but retained

his sense of connection to Cape Breton, as well as his accent and colourful language, throughout his life. He completed his medical degree at Dalhousie University and then embarked on his psychiatric residency at McGill University. After two years of training, he moved to Boston for further studies at the Boston State Hospital, followed by training in psychoanalysis at Columbia University. He returned to Canada in 1955 as one of its first training analysts and began clinical and academic work at McGill. He joined the staff of the Department of Psychiatry at the Jewish General Hospital, becoming its Psychiatrist-in-Chief by 1960. At that time, he and his colleagues pioneered a major academic and clinical initiative into the understanding of family functioning and the development of family therapy. For the next 50 years, he remained actively engaged in this research, teaching, and clinical practice, and what came to be known as The McMaster Model of Family Functioning became recognized and used internationally.

In 1967, he became the founding Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the newly created McMaster University Faculty of Medicine in Hamilton, Ontario. Nate always regarded the decade that followed as the most exhilarating phase of his academic career, under the visionary leadership of John Evans, when they fomented a revolution in medical education.

In 1978, he was appointed