

Phyllis Fern



On Sunday, July 20, 2025, PHYLLIS SARA FERN (née Tumaroff), at age 92, passed away peacefully in Alexandria, Virginia. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Phyllis earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Wellesley College, then moved to New York City and worked at Dell Crossword Puzzles. She then moved back to Boston and was an account executive at Sackel Jackson Advertising and Director of Research and Sales Promotions at the radio-TV representation firm, Bill Creed Associates. She married Saul Fern in 1963, raising her three children in Warwick, Rhode Island, where she lived for close to 60 years. For many years, she was the proud founder and owner of "The Write Place," a resume and career services business, where she dedicated her time to helping countless individuals

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Beyond her professional life, Phyllis was committed to her community. She volunteered for Rhode Island The League of Women Voters, "People in Trouble (PIT)," as well as the Providence Boarder Baby Project, offering her time and support to those in need. Additionally, she was an active member of the Providence Rotary Club, contributing to various service projects and initiatives.

Phyllis was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her children, Ellen Fern (Brett O'Brien), Kip Fern (Diane), and Andrew Fern (Brooke); her cherished grandchildren, Mica, Caleb, and Garrett O'Brien; and Robin, Laura, Peyton, Caroline, and Harper Fern. She also leaves behind her brother, Arthur Cikins (Bonnie), her former husband Saul Fern, and a host of loving relatives and friends.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2025, 11:30 am at Temple Sinai, 3100 Military Road, N.W., Washington, DC Services will be live streamed. Shiva will be held at the home of Ellen Fern and Brett O'Brien on Thursday, July 24, from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm and on Saturday, July 26, from 5:00pm to 7:00 pm. Interment will be at Swan Point Cemetery, Providence, Rhode Island at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the American Breast Cancer Foundation, Planned Parenthood, or UsAgainstAlzheimer's Action. Phyllis' strong will, kindness, and life of service will be remembered and cherished by all who knew her. Arrangements entrusted to TORCHINSKY HEBREW FUNERAL HOME, 202-541-1001.

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