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GOLDBERG, Eva (MEDOFF)

OBITUARIES

Eve Medoff Goldberg; activist for education, women, elderly

PROVIDENCE — Eve Medoff Goldberg, who spent her life volunteering, working and learning, died Wednesday at home at 2 Regency Plaza West, eight days before her 104th birthday.



Mrs. Goldberg got a college degree at the age of 71 and then "started her career," according to Arthur S. Robbins, her nephew. She retired from active employment at the age of 90.

She was the wife of the late Alfred J. Goldberg. Born in 1898 in Bessarabia, Romania, a daughter of the late Abraham and Rose (Gusner) Medoff, she came to this country in 1902, settling with her family in Woonsocket.

"She had a mind that could remember getting off that boat . . . at four years old," Robbins said yesterday.

Mrs. Goldberg attended public schools in Woonsocket and, after ninth grade, went to work as a secretary at the former Shamboo Shuttle Co. and later at the Jarret Worsted Mills.

After they married in 1924, Mrs. Goldberg and her husband moved to Springfield, Mass., where they lived until 1939. They moved to Pawtucket and operated the Providence Textile Co. on North Main Street in Providence.

"She was very demanding; everything had to be just right, done to perfection," Robbins said. He recalled that before going to dinner at his aunt's home on religious holidays, his mother would caution, "Remember, Aunt Eve is Emily Post."

After the death of her husband, she returned to school. In 1965, at the age of 67, she became a freshman at what was then Roger Williams Junior College. She went on to the University of Rhode Island, where she majored in English and received a bachelor's degree in 1969.

She worked as a substitute teacher in Pawtucket elementary schools and as a volunteer researcher for a year with a Bradley Hospital psychologist, and at Meeting Street School for four years.

She also did volunteer work at the Providence Center on Hope Street, and worked as a paralegal for a year at Rhode Island Legal Services.

She worked at the Department of Elderly Affairs from 1978 to 1988, creating the Gerontology Library, now used statewide. During this period, she was a member of the State Library Advisory Commission and the state Advisory Commission for Women.

In 1976, she was selected to serve on the International Women's Year Committee. In 1983 and 1984, with the assistance of educator Joyce Stevos, she introduced the Inter-Generational Program in Providence junior high schools.

She was an "absolutely amazing person who accomplished so much," said Robbins, the developer of the Providence Marriott and the Courtyard Marriott.

When she retired at the age of 90, the Department of Elderly Affairs library was named in her honor. After retirement, she spent the next five years as a volunteer overseeing the library at the former Jewish Home for the Aged.

Mrs. Goldberg was active for many years in religious and civic organizations. She was a life member of Congregation B'Nai Israel Sisterhood, Temple Emanu-El, Miriam Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, Brandeis University Women's Division and the Providence Chapter of Hadassah.

"We will never forget someone who never forgot — be it her past, or her relatives' present," James Medoff, her nephew and godson, said yesterday.

She was a member of the Rhode Island Jewish Home, Sisterhood of Ohava Shalom, Pawtucket, the National Council of Jewish Women, the American Association of University Women, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Jewish Family Service.

Besides her nephews, she leaves two daughters, Adele G. Espo of West Palm Beach, Fla., and Sybil G. Shapiro of Reno, Nev., and six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Israel, Samuel J. and Edward B. Medoff, Nancy M. Robbins and Brenda M. Smira.

The funeral will be held Sunday at 11 a.m. in Temple Emanu-El, Sessions Street. Burial will be in B'Nai Israel Cemetery, Woonsocket.

GOLDBERG, Eve (Medoff)

April 10, 2002. Residence 2 Regency Plaza West #602, Providence. Beloved wife of the late Alfred J. Goldberg. Devoted mother of Adele G. (Mrs. Harlan J.) Espo; West Palm Beach, FL and Sybil G. (Mrs. Isadore) Shapiro; Reno, NV. Loving sister of the late Israel, Samuel J. and Dr. Edward B. Medoff, Nancy M. (Mrs. Robert S.) Robbins and Brenda (Mrs. M. William) Smira. Adored grandmother of six and great grandmother of eight. Funeral Services Sunday at 11:00am at Temple Emanuel. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Alfred J. and Eve M. Goldberg Fund or The Eve Medoff Goldberg Library Fund, c/o Temple Emanuel, 99 Taft Ave., Providence, RI 02906. Shiva will be observed at her late residence Sunday 7-9 and Monday thru Thursday 2-4, and 7-9, Friday 2-4. The Family was assisted with the arrangements by Sugarman-Sinai Memorial Chapel.