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LEVIN, ESTHER

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LEVIN, ESTHER C., former Journalist and Social Worker, 84, of Wellfleet, MA, died on July 18 at the Epoch Senior Healthcare of Brewster, MA, after losing a valiant three-year battle with lung cancer. Born in Woonsocket, RI, Mrs. Levin was the daughter of the late Mary (Steinberg) Cutler and Morris Cutler, who had immigrated from Russia in the early 1900s. Her husband, Zel Levin, also of Woonsocket, was the former City Editor of The Woonsocket Call. Together, in the early 1950s, Mr. and Mrs. Levin launched the weekly Sunday Star newspaper in Woonsocket, which ran for five years. The couple retired to Wellfleet in 1986.



Mrs. Levin graduated from Boston University in 1941 with a degree in journalism and worked as a reporter for The Providence Journal and The Woonsocket Call. She married Zel Levin in 1947 and had two daughters, Jessie and Elise. While raising a family, she began a second career as a social worker, earning a Masters Degree from the Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA in 1968. For the following 18 years, Mrs. Levin was employed as a clinical social worker at Butler Hospital in Providence, RI.

Mrs. Levin was a life-long Democrat and active in a variety of cultural, political and community affairs, including being the co-leader of a stroke recovery group for seniors in Wellfleet for many years up until her illness. She was an ardent animal lover, and she adored her two Siamese cats, Angus and Samantha. Her interests encompassed art, literature, travel, antiques, environmental and social issues. Her Jewish heritage had great meaning for her.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and sister, Mrs. Levin leaves behind her husband Zel, her daughters Elise (Levin) Freedman, Jessie (Levin) Birckhead of Bethlehem, PA; and two granddaughters, Lindsay Birckhead of Boston, MA and Lauren Birckhead of Bethlehem, PA; and her sister, Gertrude Cutler of New York City.

Funeral service Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. in Congregation B'nai Israel, 224 Prospect St., Woonsocket. Arrangements under the directions of the Holt Funeral Home and the Chevrah Kaddisha.

Shivah will be observed at the home of her daughter, Elise Freedman, 75 Willis Pond Rd., Taunton, MA, Wednesday 6-9 p.m. and Thursday 4-8 p.m.