WIDGOFF, MILDRED

PJB
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Prof. Mildred Widgoff, 79, dies; noted physics scholar at Brown

BARRINGTON — Mildred Widgoff, 79, of Watson Avenue, a professor emeritus of physics at Brown University, Providence, and a noted researcher and scholar, died Tuesday at home.



Born in Buffalo, N.Y., a daughter of the late Leo and Rebecca (Shulimson) Widgoff, she had been a resident of Barrington for 50 years. Professor Widgoff was a 1944 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Buffalo and received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1952. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi, and a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

When she was 19, she was recruited from the University of Buffalo to work on the Manhattan Project in the development of an atomic bomb.

She began her career as a research associate at Brookhaven (N.Y.) National Laboratory in 1952. In 1955, she became a consultant in the physics department at Brookhaven and was a research Fellow at the Cyclotron Laboratory at Harvard University. From 1958 to 1961, she was a consultant for Cambridge Electron Accelerator Group.

Also in 1958, she joined the staff at Brown as an assistant professor of physics in research. In 1966, she became the associate professor of physics in research, a position she held until 1974. In addition, she served as executive officer in the Brown physics department from 1968 to 1980. She was a full professor at Brown from 1974 to 1996.

At Brown, she was a member of the faculty policy group from 1972 to 1974 and from 1982 to 1984; the executive committee of the Inner City Teachers of Science, 1972 to 1979; the Presidential Advisory Group, 1977-78; the committee to review the undergraduate curriculum, 1982-1984; the Medical Council, 1986-1987, and the Committee on Nominations, 1990-93.

She was a member and chairwoman of the committee on the status of women of the American Physical Society in the mid-1970s; a member and chairwoman of the New England division of the American Physical Society in the mid-1970s; a member of the APS's committee on professional concerns and manpower, 1976-80; and a member of the National Science Foundation's panel for faculty awards for women in 1990.

She leaves a son, Jonathon Bernard Widgoff Shapiro of San Francisco; a sister, Bernice W. Kliman of Glen Head, N.Y.; and many nephews and nieces. She was the mother of the late Eve Widgoff Shapiro.

A graveside service will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Forest Chapel Cemetery.

WIDGOFF, Mildred

July 20, 2004. Residence Barrington. Dear mother of Jonathon Bernard Widgoff Shapiro of San Francisco, CA and the late Eve Widgoff Shapiro. Loving sister of Bernice W. Kliman and brother in law of Merwin Kliman of Glen Head, NY. Devoted aunt and great aunt. Graveside Service Friday at 2:00 PM at Forest Chapel Cemetery, Barrington. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to Brown University (please write Physics Dept. on check memo line), P.O. Box 1843, Providence, RI 02912. The family was assisted with the arrangements by SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.