



Florence W. Cohen

July 12, 1921 - September 26, 2020

Florence Gertrude Wicentowsky Cohen, of Prairie Village, KS passed away 9/26/2020 at the age of 99.

Florence had many lifelong friends from work, volunteering, Normandie Court where she lived for 34 years, and especially Beth Shalom and Sisterhood. She loved to make her friends laugh with her quick wit, loved engaging with people and using her interviewing skills to learn about people, their lives and the world.

Florence was born July 12, 1921 in Brooklyn, New York to Jacob Wicentowsky (from Tomashev, Poland 1896) and Anna Lidoshore Wicentowsky (from Kishinev, Muldova 1895). Florence grew up in Ellenville, NY, near the Catskills, where her father ran a handkerchief manufacturing company, along with her older sister, Sylvia Wicentowsky Goldstein and younger brother Manny Winston. Always outgoing, Florence loved drama from an early age. She was in the Thespian Club in high school and several years later, hosted a radio show. Florence started her working career as a bookkeeper at Devoe Reynolds Paint Company and Knickerbocker Decal Co. in New York City but the first job she loved was working for the Signal Corps as a Radar Engineer Assistant, from 1941 to 1945. She attended Emerson College for Drama in Boston.

Returning home by train from a visit to see her brother, she met her husband Myrl, to whom she was married for 60 years until his death in 2005. She was impressed with his knowledge of literature and poetry, he with her beauty and brains.

They moved to Kansas City in 1946 and raised their three children. She took pride in hosting holiday dinners and organizing family picnics. Florence began her lifelong involvement in volunteering, including Driver for the Blind with Council of Jewish Women, Officer and Life Board Member for Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Program Director for the Jewish Community Center School of Jewish Studies, and Editor of the Midwest Branch Sisterhood Bulletin. She taught Sunday School at Beth Shalom for 11 years, and worked for MACREL, Midwest Educational Research Lab. At age 55, she settled into a job that

married her love of interviewing and service to people, as a Real Estate Agent at Eugene D Brown, now Reece Nichols, and worked until age 87. After retiring from Reese Nichols, she volunteered at Top Drawer, a shop that supports Kansas City Hospice, where she looked forward to her weekly shift for 8 years beginning at age 88.

Florence was a devoted exerciser and healthy eater. She was a regular attendee at the Heritage center exercise classes and enjoyed spa vacations focused on healthy lifestyle. Her other interests were theater and drama classes and occasional matchmaking. She participated in a play reading group at the Heritage Center for many years. Florence was known for waking up at 6 AM to read the entire Kansas City Star and Wall Street Journal newspapers and loved keeping informed watching interview shows.

She lived a long and healthy life filled with activities, family and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband, Myrl A Cohen; sister, Sylvia Goldstein and brother-in-law, David Goldstein; sister-in-law, Elaine Cohen and her parents. She is survived by her three children: Jeffrey Cohen of Kansas City, Clifford Cohen (Paula) of Leawood, and Nancy Cox (Robert) of St Charles, IL; her 3 grandchildren, Hilary Singer (Jeremy), Alison Cohen (Brian Czarski) and Laura Cox; her 3 great grandchildren Lila Singer, Zander Czarski, and Toby Czarski; her brother, Manny Winston and sister-in-law, Lois Winston, and her brother-in-law, Ralph Cohen and sister-in-law, Jan Cohen.

A private funeral and burial will be held at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to The Heritage Center at the Jewish Community Center or Kansas City Hospice or JVS.

Events

SEP 29 **Zoom Graveside Service** 10:00AM

Please call funeral home for Zoom information.
MO, US

Comments



“ Jeff - I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. I know she was as amazing in real life as she sounded in death.

Pam Wishon - October 02 at 03:30 PM



“ I knew Florence since I was a little girl. Later in life our paths crossed many times in Real Estate. She was such a lovely lady. I am so sorry for your loss. Please accept my sincerest condolences.

Marilyn Cohen

Marilyn Cohen - September 30 at 12:57 PM



“ We had lovely visits with Florence during the Wednesday afternoon Normandie Court social hour until she became too ill to attend. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the family. Her friend and next door neighbor: Jackie and Joel Brende

Jackie & Joel Brende - September 29 at 08:13 PM



“ I met Florence in 2002 when I joined the RN office at 75th and Mission. She was always such a delight to be around and I loved her dry wit. I'll never forget her saying "it isn't over 'till it's over" when we talked about transactions. I considered it a privilege when she asked me to repair a faucet in her home. May she Rest In Peace.
Bob Ludwig

Bob Ludwig - September 29 at 06:09 PM



“ Our paths crossed only a few times ... she showed us around a condo for sale; and mostly at the thrift shoppe! Our conversations were never brief! I will miss those chance encounters. Her memory is a true bless.



Kathy Berger - September 29 at 12:17 PM



“ As a resident of Normandie Court I have known Florence for five years. She lived here from the outset and was considered the matriarch. At weekly get togethers she could always answer our questions and provide us with interesting bits of information. She will definitely be missed. Condolences to her family.
Susan Fischer

Susan Fischer - September 29 at 10:23 AM



“ Florence was a special friend who I met in our exercise class at the Heritage Center. She was so upbeat, positive and wise. I admired her for her strong will to keep going no matter what! She will always remain in my heart as an inspiring role model. My sincere condolences to her family. Fondly, Alice Lewinsohn

Alice Lewinsohn - September 29 at 10:23 AM



“ To Cliff, Paula, and the entire family, we are sorry for your loss.,

Mark Edelman and karin lichterman - September 28 at 04:44 PM



“ A remarkable lady and her family was lucky to have her for so long!
Our condolences to her family!
Marilyn and Stephen Koshland

Marilyn Koshland - September 28 at 10:16 AM



“ Florence was active in Beth Shalom Sisterhood for many years. She was especially was good with programming. She had many friends and will be missed. May her memory be for a blessing.

Rickie Haith

Rickie - September 28 at 11:53 PM



“ I was lucky to meet Florence when I moved into Normandie Court and we had many great conversations. I could tell from the moment that I met her, she was a really neat lady. She will be missed here at NC. My condolences to her entire family! Sheri Dyer

Sheri Dyer - September 29 at 09:18 AM



“ I met Florence in a Drama Class just a couple years ago. Whenever she did a reading, it was apparent that she was talented. It was an honor to have gotten to know her, even for a short time., Audrey Asher

Audrey Asher - October 01 at 04:33 PM



“ Florence was an amazing woman who lived a good, long life. She was instrumental in bringing a Drama Class to the Heritage Center at The J. I was privileged to be in that class with her and play her daughter in a short skit called "The Phone Call from Queens." She was perfect for the role of the kind, helpful, caring Jewish Mother. She will be sorely missed. My condolences to Jeff and her family. Janice Panknin

Janice Panknin - October 01 at 05:27 PM