

When I heard, with great sadness, of the passing of Myrna Braverman, I was flooded with memories of the early days of the GTM. We were the upstarts, the <sup>3</sup>new kid on the block<sup>2</sup>, the <sup>3</sup>tail that was wagging the dog<sup>2</sup>, as one Hazzan referred to our activities. Formed as an affiliate to the ACC, we were charged with the responsibility of educating the synagogue musician in the tradition of Jewish music. It was our goal to work alongside the cantors to preserve and perpetuate this, our musical heritage.

Myrna was a pioneer with us, along with Wally Zimmerman, Christine Crockett, Sonia Kass, and Bernie Ebstein, among others. We attended conventions where we soon became key as accompanists and participants. If there was a concert, service, or workshop that needed a pianist, Sonia, Myrna, or I would be drafted. Often, we had little or no adequate rehearsal time and were forced to sightread at a moment's notice. We played on hotel pianos, church organs, and synagogue instruments often in need of tuning or repair. But we played well and artistically, and demonstrated that Jewish music could and should be on the highest artistic level.

There was one concert, I believe in Atlanta, where we, the Guild, were to open the convention. It was a Sunday night concert, the public was invited, and no one was arriving until Sunday afternoon. I hurriedly created a program, made copies of the music, and sent a packet to Myrna. Together, long distance, we prepared sets of music, which were then sent to all of the participants---I believe it was close to fifty singers<so that they could arrive prepared. Only someone like Myrna would selflessly volunteer for such a task and then carry it out as she did. We had one rehearsal that afternoon and gave a rousing performance that evening with her help.

Myrna acted as a sounding board where I, as the pioneering president, could try out new ideas and plans for the Guild. She was always willing and anxious to do anything and everything that she could to see that the organization and the conventions ran well. Myrna was not a leader---she did not want to be in the spotlight<but in her own quiet way she epitomized the spirit of cooperation which we in the Guild attempted to foster with the ACC. She helped us greatly in our undertaking to uphold and preserve the tradition of synagogue music for the next generation. And for that, we shall always be grateful. We could not have done it without her.

Myrna also gave much of her time, expertise, and energy to, the Jewish Day School, her synagogue, and the extended Jewish community of St. Louis. Myrna

served on the Commission of Synagogue Music and was a past recipient of the GTM Shomer Shirah Award. She composed an oft-performed version of "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" . In later years, Myrna was the accompanist in her own performance group, "Yachad."

In whatever she did, she gave her whole heart and soul. She was a gracious, beautiful person and an outstandingly gifted musician.

Our hearts go out her husband, Dr. Abe Braverman, daughter Carolyn Goldwasser (Joe), daughter Mimi Braverman Thompson (Bryan), and granddaughter Hannah Dolginoff. May they find comfort in the fact that the world is a better place because of the presence of Myrna Braverman. May her memory be for a blessing.

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