



Mrs. Monica Elfreda Benjamin

March 23, 1929 - March 23, 2012

Monica Elfreda Benjamin, born in Southern Rhodesia on 3/23/29, passed away in Asheville, North Carolina on her birthday. She lived a rich and fascinating life on two continents.

The youngest of 4 siblings, Monica spent her childhood in the close-knit Graham family in Salisbury (now Harare, Zimbabwe). Reading and art were her childhood passions. She had a classical education, infused with the spirit of colonial Africa. As her older brothers headed off to war, she tended to her family and community. As a young woman, she worked as a speech therapist, and worked tirelessly with the Jewish Communal League, taking care of people in need.

Monica married Derrick Benjamin in 1952, and they settled in Bulawayo. They were pillars of their community and they traveled widely, but Monica's main focus and source of joy was always the happiness and success of her family. She dearly loved Derrick, her husband of 59 years, and her family. She was a source of counsel, wisdom and support to her friends and family.

With the increasing turmoil of the post-colonial years, Monica and Derrick moved to Durban, South Africa, and New York settling in Chagrin Falls, near Cleveland, Ohio. When her husband retired in 1996, they moved to Asheville, North Carolina to be closer to their family. She had an eye for beauty and she

loved her sun-filled home in the mountains. She loved to paint in water colors and her flowers and landscapes line the walls.

Her friends and family will remember Monica as cultured, sophisticated, and remarkably non-judgmental and adaptable. Her warmth, compassion, insight, and support will be missed.

Monica had boundless energy and enthusiasm for life until her final illness. Her greatest challenge in her last years was the dependence that came from illness. She died on her own terms in her home in the presence of her loving family. She is survived by her husband Derrick, children Shirley (Adrian) and Rodney (Linda) and grandchildren Nicholas (Katie), Dylan (Katie), David, and Alexander.

Funeral services will be held on Monday, March 26, 2012 at 12:30pm at Synagogue Beth Israel with Rabbi Robert Cabelli officiating. Burial will follow in Lou Pollock Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Synagogue Beth Israel, 229 Murdock Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804 or NC Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC 28806.

Cemetery Details

Lou Pollock Cemetery

North Louisiana Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806

Previous Events

Service

MAR 26. 12:30 PM (ET)

Beth Israel Synagogue
229 Murdock Ave
Asheville, NC 28804
<http://www.bethisraelnc.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Monica Elfreda Benjamin*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *5 files added to the album Benjamin Family Photos*



Morris Funeral Home - March 26, 2012 at 09:29 AM