



Ms. Sura Wolff Wengrow

November 28, 1908 - August 8, 2016

Sura Wolff Wengrow, a native of Allendale, SC, passed away at her home with her son, Arnold Wengrow, in Asheville, NC, on August 8, 2016. She was the daughter of Henry Wolff and Rachel Pearlstine Wolff of Allendale. She had an older sister, Cecile, and a younger brother, Louis Michael. All are deceased. She graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1928 and at the time of her death at age 107 she was the oldest living Carolina graduate. She married Sam Wengrow of Columbia, SC, in 1929, and they lived in Allendale, where they had three children, Reberta (now Reberta W. Karesh), Henry Ray, and Arnold. The family moved to Columbia, SC, in 1950, where Ms. Wengrow became active at the Beth Shalom Synagogue. She was president of the Sisterhood three times and ran the gift shop for many years. She received the synagogue's Mogen David Service Award and the Light of Torah Award from the Southern Region of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. She received an entry in "A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life," and an oral history is at the South Carolina Jewish Historical Society: <http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu/lcdl/catalog/lcdl:11847>.

Ms. Wengrow received a certificate in library science from the University of South Carolina in 1961 and worked until she was 75 as the supervisor of the Branch 5 Library at Fort Jackson. She and Sam Wengrow were active in the Democratic Party of South Carolina and campaigned for Robert McNair in his races for lieutenant governor and governor. Sam Wengrow died in 1970.

Ms. Wengrow is survived by children, Reberta W. Karesh of Camden, SC,

Henry Ray Wengrow (Jean Brock) of Jacksonville, FL, Arnold Wengrow of Asheville, three grandchildren, David M. Karesh and his partner Will Cooper of Asheville, Carl Karesh of Camden, SC, Rebecca Wengrow Fixel of Jacksonville, FL, and her great-granddaughter, Abigail Fixel of Jacksonville. A grandson, Richard Wolff Karesh of Camden, SC, predeceased her.

Graveside services will be held at the Whaley Street Cemetery of Beth Shalom Synagogue in Columbia, SC, on Wednesday, August 10, at 3:30 p.m., Rabbi Jonathan Case officiating. Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Ave, is handling arrangements in Asheville, and Dunbar Funeral Home, 3926 Devine St, is handling services in Columbia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Congregation Beth Israel, 229 Murdoch Ave, Asheville, NC 28804; Beth Shalom Synagogue, 5827 N. Trenholm Road, Columbia, SC 29206; Jewish Family Services of WNC, 417 Biltmore Ave, Asheville, NC 28801; or Council on Aging of Buncombe County, 46 Sheffield Cir, Asheville, NC 28803.

Cemetery Details

Beth Shalom Cemetery (Whaley Street)

1300 Whaley Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 10. 3:30 PM (ET)

Beth Shalom Cemetery (Whaley Street)
1300 Whaley Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Tribute Wall



“ *Ms. Sura Wolff Wengrow*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM

RC

“ When I was stationed at Fort Jackson from Feb 1967 through Jan. 1969 I was just 19 years old and always homesick. The library was a port in the storm for me and it was there I met “Mrs. W” as I affectionately referred to her. She was one of the librarians and we got to know each other through her work and many conversations. At the time I was not even a college graduate. But, because of the word she put in for me I was interviewed by the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate to replace an attorney who clerked in that office and was leaving the military. I became permanently assigned there as a legal clerk. Knowing her got me a good assignment with interesting work. Much more important, however, she and my late friend Sam Wengrow started putting me up in their home on weekends. I had my own room, with privacy, a real bed, real mattress and my own shower there as opposed to the barracks in which I lived and bunk bed and communal shower I used during the week. Many weekends I spent days with her husband while she worked and he was a very brilliant conversationalist and his company was very nurturing. When I was at their home she would cook for all of us and she was superbly skillful in the kitchen. Indeed, people would ask her to bake cakes for occasions such as bar mitzvah. One time at Easter she prepared a paschal lamb cake and I was in her car as she walked up to the door of the governor’s mansion and her cake was accepted on behalf of then governor McNair. When I was in her home I did not feel like a mere guest. I felt I was in a home away from home. When she visited New York, where I lived, I remember her going with her daughter to the Jewish Museum. It is impossible to reciprocate the kindness and comfort I received from her and her husband. They did not have to do it. So long as I live they will survive in my thoughts and my affection. She was one of the very best persons I have ever known.

ralph cohen - August 28, 2016 at 12:46 PM

AW

*Ralph, if you check back and see this, we want you to know how much we appreciate your kind words.
Arnold Wengrow*

Arnold Wengrow - September 05, 2016 at 05:38 PM

KA

“ *Hi my name is Kayla and I am a local bible teacher. I am so sorry for the loss of your loved one. There is a very comforting scripture at Isaiah 25:8. It says that soon Jehovah will swallow up death forever and that he will wipe away all of the tears. So we can all look forward to a time when death will be no more. I hope that this scripture can bring some true comfort during these difficult times.*

kayla - August 23, 2016 at 07:36 PM

PR

“ *May Arnold and the family take comfort in Sura's life well-lived, and in the comfort you, Arnold, extended to her for so many years.*

Phyllis and Richard - August 13, 2016 at 03:54 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ms. Sura Wolff Wengrow.*



August 10, 2016 at 12:49 PM