

It is with great sadness that we inform the congregation of the passing of our longtime congregant Yvette (Vicki) D. Benjamin, on January 8, 2025 at the age of 98.

The funeral service will be held at Temple Beth El on Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. with interment following at Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Flushing, Queens.

Vicki was the daughter of Dr. Julius and Florence Davis of Manhattan. She had two sisters, her identical twin Minette, and Dorothy. Early in her youth Vicki studied the cello and, to the delight of her parents, often participated in trios with her sisters who played violin and piano.

Vicki graduated from Music & Art High School and then attended Queens College and Hunter College where she attained degrees in music and teaching. Upon graduation, she returned to Music and Art to teach music.

In 1951 Vicki married Dr. Martin Benjamin. After Martin completed his residency, they moved to Stamford. Always busy, Vicki often helped in Martin's medical office. She also taught cello to many gifted local students, played in the Norwalk Symphony Orchestra and played chamber music with local musicians. After Martin became ill in the 1960s, Vicki began teaching music in the Greenwich Public School system, doing so for more than twenty years until retirement.

Later in life, several years after Martin died, Vicki enjoyed a loving relationship with her dear friend Joseph Gold.

Vicki could often be seen on her daily walks about Stamford wearing her signature red beret. She was also an avid swimmer. Well into her 80s, when playing the cello was no longer possible due to rheumatoid arthritis, painting became a new passion.

Vicki was a fierce advocate for education. When in the late 1970s UConn's small Stamford campus, then located on Scofieldtown Road, was threatened with closure, Vicki organized and chaired RESCUE, a committee of prominent local citizens which successfully lobbied the state legislature to "Save the Branch." UConn Stamford has since grown and thrived.

In March 2003, Vicki was honored to receive an "Outstanding Woman of Connecticut Award" conferred by then Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Rell, for music, teaching, and public service.

Vicki's biggest source of pride was her five sons and their families. She is survived by Daniel (Sabrina), Sanford (Barbara), James (Amy), Alfred (Alison), William (Robin), ten grandchildren, nine great grandchildren, and her sister Dorothy.

Contributions in memory of Vicki Benjamin may be sent to Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County, Temple Beth El, or the charity of your choice.

Shiva will be held Sunday after interment until 9 pm, Monday from 7-9 pm, and Tuesday from 7-9 pm at the home of Sabrina and Daniel Benjamin, 206 Lynam Road, Stamford, with services each night at 7:30 pm.

May God comfort the mourners among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Rabbi Gerry L. Ginsburg