



Gladys Gilbert

September 29, 1923 - December 20, 2023

Gladys Gilbert was born in Brooklyn, New York, on September 29, 1923 and had the good fortune to celebrate her 100th birthday this past September. She married three times, and has two sons. Gladys' oldest son, Tom Oliveri and his wife Jane Keller live in West Shokan. Her grandson Tom, his wife Patricia and their two children Grace and Ryan live in Long Island. Gladys' younger son, Dr. Kirby Surprise and his wife Patricia Ljutic live in California.

Granddaughter Vencenza and husband Ari are the parents of Corwin and live in Washington. Grandson George and partner Emerald are the parents of Harlow and live in California. A loyal and constant being in Gladys' life was her chosen daughter Mary Certoma, a weekly visitor always bearing flowers for many, many years.

During WW II Gladys worked in a Navy factory, much like Rosie the Riveter. She was very proud of her life as a career woman. Gladys started a bridal business in Long Island and franchised seven bridal stores. She was a master seamstress. Gladys moved to the Catskills in the 1970s and worked for the government agency CEDA, and then as the administrative assistant for the town supervisor of Olive. Gladys was a founding member of the Catskill Mountain Railroad. She worked hard with a group of railroad enthusiasts and this tourist railroad is still in operation, a famous spot for families year round. During the 1980s and 90s she became the chairman of the Sharpe Committee, a non governmental agency which created housing for seniors,

Gladys loved helping people in the community and was still driving friends to doctors' appointments in Poughkeepsie and points south well into her 90s.

One of Gladys' interests was family genealogy. She was a great source of information for grandson Tommy's school project and was always eager to share her discoveries. She reconnected with her Jewish roots in the 1990s and had a Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Gladys was a lifelong member of the Daughters of Rebeka, an international service organization.

Gladys walked into the room, head held high, for her 100th birthday party and enjoyed speaking to the crowd. This gathering of friends and family was her 'Celebration of Life' event. It was a wonderful day for all. All other services and cremation are private and under the direction of Buono Funeral Service, Inc, Saugerties, NY. Please offer your condolences for Gladys and her family online at www.BuonoFuneralService.com.. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to your local food pantry in Gladys' memory.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ We knew Gladys by way of the Catskill Mountain Railroad (CMRR). I joined CMRR in July of 1985 and Gladys was right in the midst of CMRR, not only as secretary, but as a working volunteer. Ever enthusiastic and optimistic. In the early days of CMRR, we were a small club like organization. Little money but long on volunteers and resourcefulness. It was a seemingly herculean challenge to rebuild track, keep trains running and pay the bills. Gladys owned a caboose which was a sometime gift shop, and Gladys was on hand when the trains ran, as well as at CMRR board meetings, and other related events. No matter what difficulties we faced, whether with keeping trains and other equipment running, or with political opposition, Gladys never lost her enthusiasm or optimism. I served on the Board of CMRR for many years, taking over as "recording secretary" while Gladys continued as corporate secretary. We used to meet in Gladys' house in Shokan. Meetings went long into the nights, and we'd stop for coffee and donuts or Danish pastry, which Gladys made sure to have on hand. Gladys was never one to say the meetings were going way too long, while younger persons such as myself (about 27 years younger than Gladys) would be yawning and hoping things would wrap up in short order. Gladys was a part of the founding of CMRR, and while CMRR is now a 'going business', it was Gladys who was in there at the start, helping buy a locomotive, going to meetings, and being on hand to help with ticket sales or whatever else needed doing when trains were running. A different and simpler era, for sure.

Gladys told me how, during WWII, she worked in a defense plant at Bush Terminal (an industrial complex) in Brooklyn. Gladys worked at winding small electric motors, fine work and probably tedious. The motors went into something the military needed, possibly driving navigational gyroscopes if I remember her story rightly. Gladys was patriotic, and was proud to have done her part for the USA during WWII. Gladys was indeed a part of that : "finest generation". We were blessed to have her as a founding member of the Catskill Mountain Railroad and as a friend.

Joe Michaels, Shandaken, NY

Joe Michaels - December 31, 2023 at 08:35 PM

PL

“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Patricia Ljusic - December 26, 2023 at 02:05 PM

AS

Members of Queen Ulster Rebekah Lodge # 34, and Clearwater Canton # 20 P.M. I O O F Jurisdiction of New York express sincere sympathy to all Family and Friends for the passing of our Sister and Chevalier Gladys. She was a true Sister to all of us and many people who came in to her presents. May Gladys rest in eternal peace, amen.

Alice D. Legg Sec. - February 21, 2024 at 03:00 PM