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Mrs. Sylvia Allen

Wednesday, December 06, 1939 - Friday, May 25, 2007

Sylvia (Dubinsky) Allen
1939-2007

New Waterford

Sylvia Allen of Mahon St. and formerly of George St., New Waterford, passed away Friday, May 25, 2007 at home surrounded by family in an atmosphere of love and good humour.

Born in Sydney, she was a daughter of the late Newman and Esther (Goldman) Dubinsky. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Louis; children Jonathan (Ellen), Toronto, Steven (Rachelle), Cambridge, Ont., Roselyn,

Mississauga and Shayna (Darren) Strong, New Waterford; brothers Leon (Beth) Dubinsky, Englishtown, Leslie (Josine) Dubinsky, Bedford; sister Evy (Barry) Carnat, Riverview, N.B.; grandchildren Maksim, Bob, Ethan, Asher, Hazel, and Manny; many beloved nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her sister Helen.

Sylvia was a music teacher for many years at schools in New Waterford and surrounding area. In her retirement she continued her musical legacy by teaching piano and directing choir. She was a member of the Temple Sons of Israel choir since the age of 10 and its director since the departure of its founder Rabbi Kenner. She and her family have been an integral part of the Jewish community as well as the music communities of Cape Breton. A former conductor of Calvin United church choir, she ended her career directing at Mt. Carmel church whose members have shown her such esteem with their visits and well wishes throughout these past few weeks and days.



Sylvia worked at expanding the rapport which the Jewish community has always had with the melting pot of cultures here in Cape Breton. As part of the Holocaust education committee, Sylvia made it a priority to create awareness by speaking with school children and other groups in Cape Breton about the Holocaust and Jewish holidays and culture.

She worked as a docent at the CBU gallery and spoke to the community about living with breast cancer. She was a passionate member of the Cape Breton Bridge club short of her American Contract Bridge League "life masters" by a mere six gold points. Despite this, she had her masters points in the life she lived.

The family would like to thank the many members of the bridge club, Mt. Carmel choir, the Jewish community, and the many other friends who have visited throughout Sylvia's illness. We want to thank her medical team, the doctors, nurses, VON, and palliative care for their exceptional care and compassion.

The funeral service will be held Sunday, May 27, at 5:30 p.m. in V.J. McGillivray Funeral Home Chapel, 380 Smith Street, New Waterford. Burial will follow in the Hebrew Cemetery, Lingan Road, Sydney.

The family will be sitting Shiva from after the funeral on Sunday until Friday at 2 p.m.. Shiva on Monday will be at the family homestead in Englishtown. The family requests visitation at their home on 620 Mahon St., New Waterford between 1 and 9 p.m. from Tuesday until Thursday and 11a.m. - 2 p.m. on Friday. Shiva is the Jewish period of mourning where it is usual for friends to make visits to the mourners' home to offer prayers of condolence.

Morning services will be held each day at 8:30 a.m. at Temple Sons of Israel, Sydney. Afternoon and evening services will be held at the family home at 7:30 p.m. (except Monday). In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Sylvia's honour be made to the charity of one's own choice. On-line expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family at www.vjmcgillivray.ca.

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