



ELEN NAOMI (BRILL) EPSTEIN

BANGOR - Helen Naomi (Brill) Epstein, died June 7, 2000, at St. Joseph Hospital in Bangor after a courageous battle with polycythemia, a disease of the bone marrow. She had just celebrated her 80th birthday on May 26, with her family.

The daughter of Sayre (Sarshik) and Louis Brill, Mrs. Epstein was born and reared in the Logan section of Philadelphia, spending summers in Atlantic City and the Poconos. She attended Temple University in Philadelphia and later worked as a secretary in her father's business, all while pursuing her great love of classical music and piano.

After a wartime courtship with her future husband, Sidney Epstein, stationed in Philadelphia with a U.S. Marines, the couple married and moved to Bangor in 1946. Her warm personality soon established the extended network of friends and family who remained close to her throughout the decades. Known both as a gracious hostess and a spirited world traveler, Mrs. Epstein was equally happy welcoming guests to her home of almost 50 years on Webster Avenue or walking the streets of Bangor searching for souvenirs for her seven grandchildren.

Mrs. Epstein served for many years on the boards of directors of the YWCA of Bangor/Brewer and the United Way of Penobscot Valley, where she received the Gold Award for outstanding service. She was a member of the Beth Israel Sisterhood and a lifetime member of Hadassah, where she participated in a women's study group for decades.

Mrs. Epstein is survived by her husband of 54 years, Sidney Epstein; her children, Elaine Epstein and son-in-law, James Krachey of Sharon, Mass.; Bruce Epstein and daughter-in-law, Rebecca Watt Epstein of Wellesley, Mass. and Carol Epstein of Bangor; grandchildren, Jesse and Joshua Semba of Bangor, Lindsey, Katherine and Russell Epstein of Wellesley, Mass., and Ross and Anna Krachey of Sharon, Mass.; sister-in-law, Michelle Brill; nephew, David Brill of Cherry Hill, N.J.; niece, Elissa Brill of Holyoke, Mass. She was recently predeceased by her brother, Harold Brill of Cherry Hill, N.J. in January of this year.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Sunday, June 11, at the Epstein Room at Beth Israel Synagogue, 144 York St., Bangor, with Rabbis Yisrael Brettler and Laurence Milder officiating. Interment will be at the Beth Israel Cemetery, Bangor. Memorial week will be observed with visiting hours Sunday, June 11, 2000, 6-8 p.m.; Monday, June 12, 2000, 1-3 and 6-8 p.m.; Tuesday, June 13, 2000, 1-4 p.m. at her home at 205 Webster Ave., Bangor. Those wishing to remember Helen in a special way may make donations in her memory to St. Joseph's Healthcare, 900 Broadway, Bangor, Me 04401. A service of Brookings-Smith, 133 Center St., Bangor.

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