

Phyllis P. Stern

1911 - 2014



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Norwich - Phyllis P. Stern, 103, of Norwich, passed away at home on Aug. 26, 2014. Phyllis was the wife of the late Herbert S. Stern and mother of Gabriel Stern of Gales Ferry, Deborah Barr of Chevy Chase, Md., and Judith Bartelstone of Scottsdale, Ariz.

Born Feb. 15, 1911, in Eveleth, Minn., to the late Gabriel Perlman and Hattie (Shandling) Perlman, Phyllis settled in Norwich, with her husband and then two children in 1943, and lived in her home ever since. In addition to her three children, Phyllis leaves her daughter-in-law, Kathleen McFadden; son in-law, Howard Bartelstone; grandchildren, Jacob Stern, Benjamin Stern, Karen Engel, Michael Barr, Lisa Stringer, Robert Bartelstone, and Susan Gilmore; 11 great-grandchildren; four nephews, two nieces and their families; and an extensive network of

family and dear friends.

In addition to her husband, brothers, Elias, Raymond, and Michael Perlman, and beloved son-in-law, David Barr, predeceased her.

Phyllis was an active member of Beth Jacob Synagogue for over 70 years, and taught in the synagogue's Hebrew School for many years. A 1932 graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Phyllis was a certified teacher in the Montville and Norwich school systems and served several charitable and civic organizations including the Norwich Chapter of Hadassah of which she was a lifelong member, co-president, and recipient of the Hadassah Hand of Healing Award, the Norwich West Side PTA which she founded, Girl Scouts of America, American Heart Association where she served as an officer for many years, the American Red Cross, The William W. Backus Hospital, National Council of Jewish Woman, United Jewish Appeal, and the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, where she was a tireless fundraiser.

Phyllis loved boating, fishing, and travel with her husband of 56 years and continued to address life with zest after his passing. Phyllis was an accomplished pianist with diverse experience from serving as the piano player in her hometown silent movie theater as a teenager to award winner in state wide classical competitions. She continued to play past age 100. She loved ice skating and relished the opportunity she had to skate with an Olympic champion.

Phyllis maintained lively correspondences with her many friends and relatives, and was known for her upbeat and energetic manner, curiosity, complete spirit, and view that life's challenges are to be met with enthusiasm. An avid reader, Phyllis closely followed current events and politics. She enjoyed people and had amazing recall of the stories, circumstances, and interests of her ever-expanding circle of family,

friends, and acquaintances.

Phyllis found the time to be a friend, tutor, and mentor to many, and her counsel enriched the lives, marriages, and careers of those who knew her. Her home was open to all, announced or otherwise, and the cookie jar was always full.

Phyllis felt blessed in her family, friendships, and life in Norwich, and was grateful, as is her family, for the caregivers who helped her remain in her home. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were frequent callers and visitors, and she took great interest in and pleasure in sharing in their progress through life. She marveled in the advances that occurred in her lifetime in medicine transportation and communication, noting that she saw the introduction of the radio as a child and video communication as a senior citizen which enabled regular live conversations with her grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31, at Beth Jacob Synagogue, 400 New London Turnpike, Norwich, with burial immediately following at Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery Number 3 on Middle Road, Preston. The Stern family invites all to return to Beth Jacob following the burial for a meal of comfort in memory of Phyllis.

Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be directed to Beth Jacob Synagogue, the Jewish Federation of Southeastern Connecticut, Center for Hospice Care Southeast Connecticut, or a [charity of choice](#).

The Church and Allen Funeral Home, 136 Sachem St., Norwich, is assisting with arrangements.

To Plant Memorial Trees in memory, please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).

Published in The Day on Aug. 29, 2014.

Stern Pages

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MEMORIAL EVENTS

AUG Funeral service

31 03:00 PM

[Beth Jacob Synagogue](#)

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AUG Burial

31 [Hebrew Benevolent Cemetery Number 3](#)

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Funeral services provided by
Church & Allen Funeral Service

[136 Sachem Street](#)
[Norwich, CT 06360](#)

[8608892374](#)

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 **Order by phone:** (866) 764-7853

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6 entries

November 15, 2015

Dear Gabe and Kathleen,

I only just learned about you mom's passing away. What a life she had! It is always hard to lose a parent (my dad was "only" 90) at whatever age but Phyllis lived life to its fullest. I send my condolences however belated from my new home in Malta and hope to re-connect with you soon.

Howard Golden

Howard Golden

September 3, 2014

Gabe and family: May your memories of her always bring a smile to your face and warmth to your heart.

Annie Chambers

August 30, 2014

I am so sorry for your loss! I often asked Nate how she was. Phyllis was a super lady! Memories of her will always be cherished. Love to the family.
Dorothea W.

DOROTHEA WEISS

August 29, 2014

May your memories of the wonderful times you shared with your loved one comfort you and your family, today and always.

American Heart Association

August 29, 2014

Dear Kathleen, Gabe, Jacob & Benjamin, I'm so sorry about the loss of your mother & grandmother. She is in my prayers. With deepest sympathy, Jeanne Moorton

Jeanne Moorton

August 29, 2014

Our condolences to Phyllis' entire family. We have fond memories of always being warmly welcomed into Phyllis' and Herb's home whenever we traveled to Connecticut. She was a gracious hostess and wonderful story teller. We had the privilege of enjoying her piano concerts while guests in her home. Her love for her family never waivered and she was the heart and soul of the family. A truly one-of-a-kind woman!

Karen & Jerry Mendl

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