

## EULOGY FOR EVA ELMAN FEBRUARY 26,1997

It is unfortunate that we often learn about a person's early life only when we hear a eulogy at their funeral. As Eva Elman only lived in Edmonton for the last 8 years of her life most of us knew her through our friendship with Bruce and Nancy and their children.

Eva had specifically asked that her funeral be held in the smaller chapel at the cemetery. I sense that she wanted to be surrounded by the friends she made in her short time here. The idea that the large chapel downtown would be needed so that Bruce's many friends could attend embarrassed her. But in fact the large number of people who are here today to express their sorrow at her loss is a testament to the respect and high esteem felt for her in her own right.

She was a valued addition to our community. Eva made friends easily. She shared her opinions with all who would listen and even those who wouldn't. When her health allowed she was an active participant in synagogue services and earned the love and respect of everyone here today.

Eva was raised in Boston. Her family owned a bakery and together with her brother and 4 sisters took an active role in helping their parents operate the business. She attended the prestigious Boston Latin Girls School where her aptitude for mathematics and finance lead her to become the accountant for the family business. She loved handling the accounts and it appeared that she would devote her life to the business but a persistent suitor from Canada changed the course of her life.

David Elman of Sydney, Nova Scotia had a reputation as a confirmed bachelor but he was smitten by Eva Schlosberg . He made frequent business trips to Boston and after a long courtship he asked Eva to marry him and settle in Sydney where his family owned an automotive business. She was reluctant to leave the comforts of Boston and its large Jewish community but eventually love won out. They were married in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1945 and moved to Nova Scotia.

Eva quickly became immersed in the smaller but active Jewish community of Sydney. Although no longer working outside of the home she still used her ~~market~~<sup>experience</sup> business as the long-time treasurer of the Queen Esther chapter of Hadassah-Wizo, eventually becoming a life member. She was active in the synagogue sisterhood and created beautiful handmade tablecloths for fund-raisers and to beautify the social hall.

Her biggest claim to fame was her homemade cinnamon twists. Among Bruce's earliest memories was coming home from school to a home wafting in the sweet smells of cinnamon and preserves with kitchen counters and tables covered with huge rolls of dough stuffed with marmalade. He proudly remembers that his mothers Nova Scotia cinnamon twists were the first items that sold out as Sydney's annual Hadassah Bazaar.

Tragedy struck Eva's life early when less than 15 years into her marriage her husband David died of cancer. Bruce was only 11. Supported by loving family and friends Eva stayed in Sydney and devoted the next part of her life to ensuring that Bruce was raised with a complete Jewish and academic education.

Thinking back to those years, Bruce is still amazed that his mother did not have to go out to work, but rather used her financial skills to ensure that the modest income from David's estate was able to provide him with the tools he needed to become the successful academic and community person he is today.

She followed his university studies closely. She expected only the best. Eva didn't give rewards for high marks but admonished him with the saying - It's not what you get if you do well - it's what you get if you don't do well.

When Bruce left for McGill after Grade 11 his mother often called to inquire after his health. The conversation always began with - How's your broken arm? - as she felt that that could be the only reason for him not writing her. Obviously this little dig stayed with him for life because during his two sabbaticals in Israel he wrote to her extensively.

Even though Bruce moved to Edmonton in 1975 Eva stayed in Sydney until 1989. She had her sisters-in-law and many close friends and felt a strong attachment to her chosen home. She was an excellent bridge and canasta player, hosting many games in her own apartment. But when some of her close friends passed away she decided to join Bruce and his family in Edmonton.

Shortly after moving here she made close friends with people such as Helene Sussman at Beth Shalom and the many Jewish residents in her new home in Canterbury Court. There she also sang with the 'Happy Gang', joined the play reading club and exercised with Tai Chi.

Eva had many younger friends as well as you will hear from Steven Mandel. An unofficial group known as the 'Friends of Eva Elman' made sure that her social and health needs were taken care of when Bruce, Nancy and the children spent the 1995-96 sabbatical year in Israel.

The last 8 years also afforded Eva the opportunity we all pray for - the years to enjoy grandchildren. Eva was extraordinarily proud of David, Gail and Joel. She attended many Purim and Chanuka plays at Talmud Torah and of course David's Bar Mitzvah and Gail's Bat Mitzvah at Beth Shalom.

So while we say good-bye to Eva today and perhaps regret that we didn't meet her earlier we are thankful for the past 8 years when her humour, her determination, her generosity and her spirit enriched our lives. And through her children and grandchildren we are and will benefit from her legacy for many years to come.