Eulogy for Edna Snell

By Elexis Schloss and Maureen Hemingway Schloss

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**I first met Edna in line at a grocery store, when I think about that now, I really don’t think of Edna being in a grocery store. But she started to talk to me as she had seen me at party recently. She asked about me and what I did and I said I had just married Peter and I didn’t really do anything special. She said “darling if you ever want to make it in society you are going to have to volunteer” and she suggested that it should be in the arts. Well, thanking Edna, I went straight to the Art Gallery the next day and that’s when my life began.**

When Maureen and I touched base yesterday to reminisce and what we would say about Edna I imagined to myself that it would have been wonderful to be able to have a video screen to show these accumulated memories to all of you.

But fortunately we all knew her well enough to imagine the always and interesting ‘Edna’.

Seeing Edna in a hat at Government House Tea or in a bathing suit by her pool with a huge smile and those flashing dark eyes and perfectly coiffed Black Hair surrounded by all of their friends, at her Birthday Party or Grinning lovingly at Bernard at the party which she had thrown to celebrate one of his birthdays. Going to meet the Queen with the Lougheeds when her Majesty visited Calgary… by her Majesty, I do mean Elizabeth the second.

**She was the best girlfriend. She loved having parties. The pool parties, at her home where always memorable. I once met Elliot Gould who was modestly lying by their pool.**

**We had many, many fun times. She was a character who made you laugh. She loved shopping and lunching of which we did a lot.**

**If Barry should answer the phone whenever Edna called me she always asked him “ is this Maureen’s boy?”**

All of us here had loved these times with such an exotic, remarkable and most of all unforgettable woman. She always had that way of say ‘Darling” and no one ever new this before but when I started my company chocolate business, Truffles Darling, I actually said to Eric that I thought of it sounding like Edna had said it…Truffles, Darling.

**I went to see Edna when she was hospitalized many years ago and I was very unhappy and crying cause Peter was not doing well and I just wanted to talk to her. At that point Edna couldn’t talk and when she did she didn’t make any sense. Bernard was there at the time and she saw how upset I was and she looked over at Bernard and very clearly Said, to my utter surprise “BERNARD, LEAVE THE ROOM’. From then on everything she said didn’t make any sense but I knew when I was talking to her that she understood everything I was going through. I was happy to be with her.**

When Maureen and I were talking about the reception that you are invited to at her home later we decided that her two favourite foods would be served. We will be having Baklava and Maureen reminded me that she loved to make and serve “tongue”. I said are you kidding? “I remember telling her once in her kitchen that “her tongue was so great that it actually spoke for herself”.

**Elexis and I loved taking her out to lunch in her later years we loved taking photos of her shopping where we would hold cute lingerie in front of her and she would laugh her head off.**

I always felt like they were characters in a Summerset Maughan Novel. Bernard was the love of her life and he always looked at her with that twinkle in his eyes. He loved her sassy sense of humour and I can see them today as if they were enjoying planting in their back garden and lounging by the pool. Together they loved the Arts, Paintings and sculpture which surrounded them in their home always in perfect taste and the loved going to Theater, Ballet and Symphony. Always the belle of the ball.

But what they loved most of all was their daughters.

Edna would bubble over with pride when discussing her ‘girls’. Lauren and Linda. She was so proud of your accomplishments…Linda for your work in medicine and Lauren for everything you have done in the Art World. I know how she came to love and adore Bev too. Everyone in this room has looked at you two girls with enormous respect and love to see how wonderful you were to your Mom over they years and since your Dad passed away.

“Although her last years have been far from perfect, She handled her frail health  always with Courage and Dignity.

She never lost her love of life and spoke volumes through her smile and her eyes.  Portia and Ohenja hovered over her like Angels.

**I received a phone call this morning from Louis Negin of Montreal who said he received a call from Mistaya this morning. He said heart is broken as he has now lost his mother. He always thought of Bernard and Edna as his surrogate parents. Louis said they were so gracious – if you did something wrong they would reprimand you and if you did something right they would give you a lollipop. They were my doctor and female physicatrist**

I often said a prayer for Edna from Hashkivenu..”Please grant that we lie down in peace secure in your protecting love and Shelter us beneath your wings and keep us safe both night and say”. This is our prayer for You, the unforgettable Character Edna. Baruch Hashem.

**Edna, you were my everything, I cherish my memories of you, my big sister, my mentor, my confidante, and my friend. I will always be thinking about you.**