

Pauline Berkowitz - Jan. 1, 1919 to April 24, 2021 (102 years)

One hundred years ago this past January, I was born in London, England to Hilda and Rex Anderson. Raised in London and later in Hove on the south Sussex coast, in my early teens we moved to Belgium where my father was a producer for the English theatre in Brussels.

We returned to England in the mid-1930s and shortly after I met my husband-to-be, Sidney M. Berkowitz, who was completing a Ph.D. at Cambridge University. Married in 1939, we came to America on the last private passenger transatlantic crossing, just before the outbreak of WWII. Sidney's first pulpit was in Mobile, Alabama, a lovely introduction to America, but soon we left for Denver, Colorado, prior to his service in the Pacific as a chaplain in the Army Air Corps. During that time, our infant son, Roger, and I lived with Sidney's parents in Terre Haute, Indiana, where I



worried not only about Sidney's safety but also that of my two brothers, Ronald, who was serving in the Royal Air Force flying Spitfires, and Godfrey in the Royal Navy going ashore in Normandy Beach on D-Day, and that of my baby sister, Heather, living among the bombing of London.

Following the end of the war, we came to Youngstown in 1946 to Congregation Rodef Sholom, our home for more than forty years. During those years, I served on many charity boards, participated in the Temple's Sisterhood, and accompanied Sidney to innumerable civic and social events, while also raising our two sons, Roger and Larry. I must also say that it was heartwarming to have been a part of our congregational family, consisting of such fine and kind people, for so many years. I shall always be grateful for the way I was accepted.

In the early 1960s, I enrolled at Youngstown State University (at that time, Youngstown College) to complete my bachelor's degree. I then attended Middlebury College in Vermont for a series of summers to earn a master's degree in French. This was followed by commuting to Cleveland to complete coursework for a Ph.D. in French. My early years in Brussels and fluency in French served me well.

My first job was teaching French at an elementary school in Liberty Township. My class was presented simultaneously in a number of classrooms in the district's system via television and my theme song was "Hi Lili Hi Lo" from the 1953 movie "Lili" with Leslie Caron and Mel Ferrer. It was tremendous fun and the young students learned quickly. I then went on to be the romance language department for the Warren branch of Kent State University. Teaching both French and Spanish, I had many wonderful students and colleagues. Two of the professors and several students remain in touch these many years later. My world changed dramatically in 1983 when Sidney died at the age of 72.

Some years later, I decided to move to California to be near my son Larry and his family, and to be spared Ohio's winters. It was most difficult to make that decision to leave Youngstown, my brother Godfrey and his family, and my close friends in Youngstown and Warren. I am now happily in a continuing care community in Saratoga, California, with many friends and many helping hands. I have seen wars, civil strife, a man landing on the moon, marches for women's rights, and the introduction of personal computers, cell phones, and the web. In addition to the invention of television, I also witnessed earlier the introduction of the wireless, as the radio was first called. The change from gas jets to electricity was also a marvel and meant we no longer needed lamplighters to illuminate the streets. I now look forward to seeing driverless cars, the results of artificial intelligence, the benefits of cell therapy, and hopefully a world that will pivot more calmly and peacefully on its axis.