



Sydelle Popinsky

November 8, 1935 - October 3, 2022

Sydelle Popinsky, known as Syd to all, passed away suddenly on October 3, 2022. After nearly 87 years of adventure, Syd left this world as she lived every day – determined to get to one more performance, a jazz concert at her cherished Chez Zee. Syd was always on the go, attending plays and concerts, touring museums, traveling, dancing, volunteering and planning the next big thing.

She had a natural curiosity with the unique ability to build and nurture relationships. A role model to many, Syd was the glue that brought people together. Her energy and enthusiasm for life was hard to match.

Born in Newburgh, NY, to Mattie and George Schuman, Syd was a self-described tomboy with energy to burn. She went to New York State University at Buffalo, where she joined the debate team and met Arnie Popinsky. They married in 1954 and eventually moved to Wisconsin and started a family. Syd earned a master's in library science and Arnie became a prominent art professor at Beloit College.

Throughout her life, Syd often took a less conventional path. In 1976, Arnie and Syd made a bold move; they packed up their family and moved to Austin, Texas, where they set their sights on creating a crafts business, soon to become Clarksville Pottery and Gallery.

In the early years, Syd supported the family as a continuing education consultant at the Texas State Library, eventually joining the business full time. By the mid-90s, Clarksville Pottery grew to multiple storefronts, but Syd's true joy was rooted in the artists, neighbors and customers who became part of their lives.

Syd was one of the lucky few who found love twice in her lifetime. After losing her beloved Arnie to leukemia after 56 years of marriage, she later met Chuck Mandelbaum while ushering at the synagogue. Discovering a shared interest in the arts, they kept a busy schedule as season ticketholders while also volunteering at several venues. You might have seen them at the Long Center, Bass Concert Hall, the Paramount or ZACH Theatre, smartly dressed or in matching bow ties. They married in June of 2016.

Syd was bold, outspoken and a brilliant light to all, bringing love and laughter wherever she went. Family came first, but there was always room for another place at the table.

Syd is survived by Chuck, daughter Diana Hyland and son-in-law William, grandson Zach, granddaughter Emma, son Mitchell Popinsky (Claire DuBois), brother Art Schuman (Mary), brother Steve Schuman (Louise) and sister-in-law Ann Gutman, plus nephews, nieces and extended Popinsky, Schuman and Mandelbaum families. Syd was preceded in death by her parents Mattie and George Schuman, husband Arnold D. Popinsky and sister-in-law Molly Wilker.

Donations may be made "In Memory of Syd Popinsky" to:

- Congregation Beth Israel-Austin Empty Nesters - <https://www.bethisrael.org/payment.php>
- ZACH Theater development fund - <https://tickets.zachtheatre.org/donate/con>

tribute1

Tribute Wall

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“ *Hylandink lit a candle in memory of Sydelle Popinsky*



hylandink - October 03, 2023 at 10:35 PM

PS

“ *So sorry if this comes too late to be a part of your celebration of Syd, but I am also at this moment dealing with the death of my sister! However, I just wanted you to know the extent to which Syd (and Arnie - sorry Chuck) had an impact on our lives. We arrived at Beloit College in 1970 (from New York yet!) and found that there was only one other Jewish couple on campus. Syd and Arnie not only took us into their warm embrace, they made sure that we got accepted by the rest of the faculty by involving us in various faculty activities and clubs that we never would have even known about. They also threw great parties in their beautiful home next to a lovely stream where I saw Jay "rocking out" for the first time! We did everything together. We vacationed in Florida together. Our lives were fuller and richer because of them, and I don't have to tell you that it was Syd who sponsored it all! And, most recently, Syd visited us in Mexico and won over all of our friends there, who still ask about her! She was something special!*

Phyllis ad Jay Silverman - November 07, 2022 at 08:18 AM

JE

“ I met my Great Aunt Syd when I was 8 years old. I remember feeling nervous but Aunt Syd was warm and inviting and made me feel right at home. We continued to visit every year in Austin. I remember how comfortable I felt around her. I loved how inquisitive she was and how much she cared about me. She always made a special effort to get to know me. I loved the art she had around her and the splash of color that always surrounded her. I loved that she created the zoom meetings during the pandemic and kept the family connected. She always reached out. Her love for us and her love for life shined brightly. I miss you Aunt Syd!!! 💕

Jennifer - November 01, 2022 at 11:28 PM

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“ 4 files added to the album Syd Moments



hylandink - November 01, 2022 at 07:18 PM

LS

“ I've always thought of Sydelle as my sister from another mother rather than a sister-in-law. Countless times, you could find us on the phone at 2 am (I'm in the Eastern time zone), making a travel plan or planning for a family party or just yacking. We had such a wonderful relationship. My husband, Syd's younger brother Steve, would just go along with anything we planned out. When we first met, Syd was 33 and I was 21. Wow - that was 53 years ago.

Louise Schuman - October 23, 2022 at 01:02 AM