



Esther Edelman

May 29, 1919 - September 9, 2014

Esther (Asner) Edelman, 95, died on September 9, 2014 in Los Angeles.

She was born in Kansas City to Yiddish-speaking eastern European immigrants and lived with them and four siblings above their scrap metal business.

Prior to World War II she received a sociology degree from the University of Wisconsin and returned to Kansas City to practice social work. During the war she earned an airplane pilot's license and spent two and half years for the Navy on Kodiak Island, Alaska. After the war she met Milton Edelman and followed him to Chicago, where she took a job as an office manager. In 1948 they married and in 1950 he joined the SIU faculty in Carbondale, where she lived for 60 years. Milton died in 2006. They were founding members of the Beth Jacob synagogue. Esther campaigned in support of school integration in the 1960's and volunteered for many years at the SIU Women's Center providing assistance to women at risk of abuse. She co-organized and then led KASI, which helped women in need find abortion services. She did graduate studies in Linguistics at SIU. She was a prolific gardener, providing organic vegetables to friends throughout the growing season for years. She had an abiding interest in birds and spent much of her life singing. She is remembered for her interest in other people, her knack for celebrating whatever she admired in the world around her, and her immunity to

intimidation. Her life was a blessing to those who knew her.

Esther is survived by four children, Elaine Edelman of San Diego; Kalman Edelman of Los Angeles; Barbara Edelman of Pittsburgh; and Harry Edelman of Minneapolis; three siblings, Labe Asner of Kansas City; Eve Asner and Ed Asner of Los Angeles; and seven grandchildren.

A Graveside Memorial Service by the family of Esther (Asner) Edelman will be Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 11:00 am in Pleasant Grove Memorial Park-Beth Jacob Garden.

Anyone wishing to commemorate her legacy may donate in her name to the Southern Illinois Audubon Society, P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903-0222.

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall



“ *Esther Edelman*

October 23, 2023 at 06:26 AM



“ *A most memorable and remarkable woman. Esther was the first woman we met in Carbondale when we moved there. She was interesting, warm, welcoming and her own person. I will remember her and admire her all of my life. Love you Esther.*
Karrie A. (Bohi) Dinndorf

Karrie A. Bohi - December 18, 2014 at 12:33 PM



“ *Esther was truly one of a kind, the best kind! I feel fortunate to have known her and Milt. And I especially enjoyed when I ran into her at Schnucks. Esther and Milt were two wonderful people.*

Rhonda Rothrock - October 16, 2014 at 01:39 PM



“ *I miss Esther - we were the same age. I miss her and I miss her family, I am glad I was at her last birthday party. She was dynamite and feisty and would tell anyone off. She was an amazing woman and a bundle of energy*

Love, Issie Chesler

Issie - October 15, 2014 at 09:24 PM

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“ As a member of Southern Illinois Audubon Society, we would chat during our potlucks, picnics, programs and other events. One of our best spots for our annual potluck picnic was at the Edelman Farm in rural Alto Pass. I have such fond memories of exploring the land while sharing good food and great company. Esther will be missed by many. My thoughts go out to the family.
Vicki Lang

Vicki Lang - September 15, 2014 at 12:31 PM

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“ Esther has always been strong willed, opinionated and frank. Also thoughtful, kind and funny. Which makes her as Esther as she could be.
We will miss her endless (sometimes repetitive) questions, her nosiness, her love for flowers and her everyday worship of the sun. Esther will be greatly and unceasingly missed by our hearts. Our heartfelt condolences to her family.

~PALs~

Lori - September 11, 2014 at 10:11 AM