

Hillary Handwerger z"l



WRJ Ner Tamid Member. It is with great sadness that we share the death of Hillary Handwerger (Southfield, Michigan), who passed away on October 30, 2020, leaving to mourn her husband of 51 years, Kenneth Handwerger. She was the cherished mother of Lee (Keri Vander Werff) and Jill (Dr. Stephen Leenay). Loving Grandma of Simon Handwerger, Sophia Leenay, and Ann Leenay (Bilal Khan). Adored sister of Wendy (Rabbi Stuart) Ettinger, Trudy (Scott) Farrell, Laurie (David) Lerner, Ronnie (James) Buchanan, and

Jeffrey (Melanie Sacks) Miller.

As chair of WRJ's Ner Tamid Society, Hillary was dedicated to furthering the understanding of legacy giving and recognized how invaluable a planned gift is to WRJ.

Hillary was a devoted member of WRJ and WRJ's Central District (now Heartland District). She served as president of Women of Temple Beth Emeth (Ann Arbor, MI). She also served on WRJ's Board of Directors for many years, acted as a mentor to hundreds of WRJ women, and was an advocate for women's rights. Hillary brought vigor and passion to ensuring the future of WRJ, despite facing many medical challenges.

"Hillary was a passionate, progressive Jew that was always positive about her diagnosis. I came to know her through Central District and Temple Beth Emeth where my daughter was Assistant Rabbi. Hillary was always ready to jump in to help our District through social justice work as well as being instrumental in leading the book club in Central District," shared Marci Delson, WRJ Heartland District Co-1st Vice President.

When the women of Temple Beth Emeth and WRJ, her dear friends and colleagues, heard that Hillary had transitioned to hospice care, they arranged a special prayer to honor her and send their well wishes. Close to 80 of her friends joined together online to be there for her with solidarity and love. Hillary loved seeing all their caring faces, even reaching out to the

screen to try to touch them. This was the type of community that Hillary built.

She chose to contribute to specific efforts that were meaningful to her, which will continue WRJ's philanthropy and support generations of Jewish women. Though we miss Hillary's guidance, laughter, and leadership, we continue to see the impact of her gift every day.

To honor Hillary's dedication and commitment to WRJ, her bequest will be designated to WRJ's YES Fund and WRJ's Fund for the Generations.