

Sharon Janis z"l

WRJ Ner Tamid Member. Sharon was a beloved wife, mother, and friend. As a member of Temple Ahavat Shalom (Northridge, CA) from 1975, until her passing in 2019, she was dedicated to strengthening Jewish life in her community. Around 1982, Sharon became her sisterhood's first president who also worked full-time. In that way, she served as a role model to an entire new generation of women in the synagogue.



Sharon had the rare privilege of adoring and being adored by two amazing men. When her first husband, Lee passed away of esophageal cancer in August of 1985, Sharon remained strong for her son, instilling in him a social conscience, and transmitting her own Jewish values. A few years later, she met and married Mel. Mel followed Sharon's example by enthusiastically embracing temple life and recognizing that Sharon's need to give service was intrinsic to her personhood.

"Over the more than four decades of our friendship, I have often stood in awe of Sharon and her ability to give unstintingly of herself to groups and individuals. She had the biggest heart in the way she reached out to new friends, and at the same time holding fast to her old friends like me. Sharon's long friendship with Shelly Trop was unique, deeply valued and nurturing on both sides. The two of them had so much in common, including their enthusiasm for attending book signings and undertaking creative art projects, some of which were quite challenging. She was on the WRJ board for a year and loved the organization. She never missed a convention or area day. She loved playing Mahjonn and even organized a sisterhood Mahjonn cruise for our temple. She had a tremendous love of life and was one of the most positive women I had the pleasure of meeting," shared Phyllis Bigelson, Temple Ahavat Shalom member.

Nothing was ever too hard or too much for Sharon. When visited at her rehab center, she was in bed and on the phone arranging a kiddush luncheon for a temple family. Sharon demonstrated a commitment to community service in so many areas. She was especially proud of her volunteer work as a dedicated wellness instructor at Kaiser Permanente.

Sharon touched so many lives whether in sisterhood, her Mahjong group, two book clubs, the Pomegranate Guild, High Holy Days committee, adult Hebrew class, or weekly Torah study. There is a gaping hole left among all who were privileged to know this loving, kind, generous, warm, and giving individual.

We thank Sharon for being a part of WRJ's Ner Tamid Society and honor her love of WRJ. May her memory be for a blessing.