



Leonard Goorian

July 14, 1919 - January 19, 2020

Len Goorian was born on July 14, 1919.

His mother, Bessie, and her three older half sisters, escaped Russia saving only a brass mortar and pestle.

Bessie's first husband died shortly after their arrival in New York, and she married again having 3 more children. Lenny is the youngest--and only boy--with 5 sisters.

As a young man, Goorian spent a short stint in Vaudeville, and acted in the theater and opera.

Goorian was a professional ballroom dancer, and travelled extensively throughout North and South America, giving exhibitions of Latin dance, such as salsa, merengue and tango. His dance company called at the ports of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Havana, Cuba during its pre-revolution heyday. Back in New York, Lenny met Fred Astaire and danced professionally for the Fred Astaire Dance Studios.

Initially recruited as a pilot for Army Air Corp during WWII, Goorian was transferred to Ft. Thomas, KY where he was tasked with the entertainment and rehabilitation of troops. Here he met and married Myrril Elwood who was

performing as a ballerina for the The Cincinnati and New York Ballet. He was married to Myrrl for (55) years, until her death in 2010.

Based in Cincinnati, Ohio, Gorian was a pioneer of early live TV and radio. He worked for WCPO, WKRC and later WCET, acting in and producing several top-rated shows of the time such as; “The Paul Dixon Show”, “Ruth Lyons”, “The Uncle Al Show”, “Captain Kangaroo”, “The Skipper Ryle Show”, “Conversations with Irma” and “Lilies Yoga and You”. The highlight of his career in front of the camera were the years he hosted the live television interview program, “The Len Gorian Show”, during which he interviewed hundreds of people including Bobby Kennedy, Jimmy Durante, Liberace, Rosemary Clooney, and Anthony Quinn.

In the 60s, Gorian managed the Shubert Theater, meeting and befriending the likes of Mary Martin, Chuck Connors (The Rifle Man), George Hamilton, Nancy Sinatra and Fernando Lamas.

Over the years, Gorian was involved in real estate investing, and helped develop parts of Mt. Adams and parts of inner city Cincinnati, such as The Pendleton House.

Later, in his retirement, Gorian made many recordings for WMKV for a show he called “Latin Satin” with the music and memories of his travels abroad as an exhibition dancer in the islands and South America. Latin Satin still airs.

His last radio shows, at age 92-96, were Think Talk Radio on 55KRC “The Talk Station” and “Think, Talk, LAF” also on 55KRC about patient advocacy.

At 100 years old, Len Gorian finally succumbed to old age, at home, surrounded by family and friends, “holding court” until the end.

Goorian is survived by his two daughters, Donna Gorian and Viva Gorian-Wolfe, and son in-law Greg Wolfe. Donations in lieu of flowers are requested be sent to the Queen City Hospice at www.queencityhospice.com/donate/.

Our beloved Father, Leonard Gorian, passed away peacefully in his home late Sunday afternoon. He was surrounded by love and the best of care. He lived a century in health and old age took his beautiful life. Celebration with friends and family TBD. He is survived by his two daughters, Donna Gorian and Viva (Greg Wolfe) Gorian-Wolfe. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Queen City Hospice appreciated . www.queencityhospice.com/donate/.