



Shulamite Ash

April 10, 1926 - January 31, 2018

Ash

Shulamite nee Dolnick, age 91, passed away January 31st, 2018., loving wife of Milton Ash, beloved mother of Avner (Rosemary Reiss) Ash, Miriam Ash, Reuel (Linda) Ash, dear grandmother of Daniel, Alexandra, Sarah, Elisheva and Emily. Services to be held at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions to Opening Minds through Art at Miami University (OMA).

Shulamite Dolnick Ash, resident of Cedar Village Retirement Community in Mason Ohio, passed away on January 31st, 2018. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, Milton Ash, her children, Avner (Rosemary Reiss), Miriam, Reuel (Linda), and her grandchildren, Daniel, Alexandra, Sarah, Elisheva, and Emily. She was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 10, 1926. Her father, whom she adored, Max Dolnick, was a doctor and a leading figure in the American Labor Zionist movement. Both of her parents were born in Eastern Europe, and spoke Yiddish and English in the home. Shulamite also studied Yiddish at cheder and retained a lifelong love of the Yiddish language and Yiddish songs, many of which she learned from her parents. She was a gifted artist whose work won prizes at juried shows. Some of her fondest childhood memories relate to the painting classes she took at Chicago's famed Art Institute. She also had fond memories of the time spent with her

extended family in Chicago.

She graduated from the University of Chicago in 1948 with a degree in Political Science. She was married in 1949, and gave birth to her three children in Chicago. She moved with her family to Santa Monica, California in 1958, where she resided until she moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in 2014 to be near her children.

She was a devoted mother who imparted to her children her great warmth, sense of humor, love of music, art, and literature, and her love and commitment to Jewish culture and the State of Israel. She also enjoyed a rich professional life, first as a counselor to Vietnam veterans seeking employment and education when they returned from the war, and then as an adult educator at UCLA extension. She helped administer programs primarily for mental health care professionals and met many luminaries, including Erik Erikson and Viktor Frankl. A professional highlight included a trip to England where she met Anna Freud, Sigmund's daughter. In her retirement, she continued to paint, and enjoyed spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She was a special person, who had a wide circle of friends from many walks of life, all of whom loved her deeply, as did her family. Her effervescent personality lit up every room she entered. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten.

Tribute Wall

“ *Shulie: Our Friend at Our Side*

All of our OMA artists bring their unique personalities and ways of making art to each session. Shulamite, or Shulie as she likes to be called, is one.

“Every time Shulie comes to OMA, she arrives wearing a 100 watt smile that is impossible not to match, and she gives a joyous, funny two-handed wave,” says Kayla, one of our student leaders.

Another leader, Brad, agrees. Shulie can make an entrance. “She has a way of catching your eye with a kind of winking smile that says ‘I’m really glad to see you this morning’ before you’re even in conversational range.”

Shulie is an artist, She has been throughout her life. We recognized the quality of Shulie’s artwork in 2014 when her piece created in OMA, “My Friend At My Side,” was one of 14 selected from among 50 submissions. The panel of seven judges for the show “Oxford Art in Bloom” were blind to artist identity. The selected pieces were then used as inspirations for floral arrangements created by members of a local garden club.

Shulie’s art-making experience is evident when she is at work on a piece. With her legs crossed, she might initially appear nonchalant about the art-making process and outcome, but she is concentrating and focused.

“She approaches each of her art pieces with intention,” Beth Rohrbaugh, OMA Assistant Director observes. “She seems to have a vision for what she is creating.”

“I love the way [Shulie] invites a comment in passing on whatever she is doing — usually beautiful impromptu compositions in hues that are of her own making from even the simplest watercolor palette,” says Brad. “She does this not so much in words as with her

eyes that flash from you to the piece she is working on, and then back with a light hand gesture that asks, 'So what do you think of this?'"

Shulie prefers to paint with acrylics and her pieces often include human figures, but she is curious and open to experimenting with different mediums and tools. One of our art projects uses a Japanese brush painting technique. Brad asked Shulie what she thought of working in black ink.

"It's a different adventure," she said, looking at her first draft of the painting. "You can see the process there."

As she adds gold pastel to her piece, Shulie explains, "I'm trying to make things do something with each other." Revealing her imagination and preference for including people in her work, she then points to the Japanese word stamp. "Do you know what that is? It's somebody dancing!"

Shulie is funny, engaging and talented. At OMA, our lives are enriched by knowing her. Kayla sums it up. "[Shulie is a] warm, gentle soul with so much love to give."

All OMA students and staff are grateful for having been a small part of Shulie's life. Throughout her years in OMA, Shulie taught us by example how to live well and age with grace. We will miss her at Cedar Village.

The OMA Team - February 01, 2018 at 10:43 AM