



## Zelma "Zell" Jeanne Schulman

February 21, 1928 - September 17, 2025

Zelma Jeanne "Zell" Schulman, passed away Wednesday, September 17th, 2025. She was 97. She was born February 21, 1928 to the late Harry and Henrietta (nee Jacobs) Sharff. Devoted wife for 50+ years to the late Melvin Schulman of Cincinnati, Ohio. Loving mother of Stuart & Carol Ann Schulman of Cincinnati, Karen & Avi Bear of Cynthiana, KY, Alan & Stacey Schulman of West Orange, NJ, and H. Glenn & Carole Doyle Schulman of Cincinnati. Cherished "Bubbie" & Grandmother to 11 grandchildren and great-grandmother to 9 adored great-grandchildren.

Referred to as "A true Force of Nature" by Cincinnati Magazine, Zell Schulman touched countless lives throughout the Cincinnati community. She was the author of four cookbooks (MacMillan Publishing) including "Let My People Eat" and spent decades as a beloved food columnist for The American Israelite, where she was known for "Zell's Bites" and "The Modern Jewish Cook." Named a Cincinnati Enquirer "Woman of the Year" in 1975, she dedicated her life to serving others - from translating Yiddish and German for Holocaust survivors at Jewish Hospital to teaching inner-city children to swim at her Amberley Village home where she hosted foreign exchange students, international opera singers and notable members of the Women's Rights movement in the 1970's including Gloria Steinem and Bella Abzug.

A passionate advocate for the Cincinnati Arts and Jewish communities, Zell

was Co-Founder of the Friends of the College Conservatory of Music (CCM), the former President of the Women's Division of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and served as former Chair of Hospitality for the Cincinnati Opera Company. She participated in numerous UJA Missions to Israel where she and her husband Melvin helped fund the creation of Givat Katznelson in Netanya while serving as a lifelong member of Hadassah, UJA, JNF, Beth Adam and Wise Temple.

Her father's words guided her life: "The people you will meet along the way—no matter what color they are, what language they speak, or where they come from—those are the people who will make your life." Zell lived this philosophy daily, opening both her home, her heart and her kitchen to all. One mantra remained constant throughout her life --

"Each day is a gift, and we open the package the best we can."

A funeral service for Zell will take place on Sunday, September 21 at 12:30PM at Weil Kahn Funeral Home (8350 Cornell Rd. Cincinnati, OH. 45249) where guests will be received from 11:30AM until the time of service. Burial will follow immediately at United Jewish Cemetery Montgomery (7885 Ivygate Ln. Cincinnati, OH. 45242). In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Cincinnati, Ohio <https://donate.bigsforkids.org/check-out/1984> and The Cincinnati Opera Company <https://my.cincinnatiopera.org/donate/i/hon-mem>

# Cemetery Details

## United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane  
Montgomery, OH 45242

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 21. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home  
8350 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

## Funeral Service

SEP 21. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home  
8350 Cornell Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45249

# Tribute Wall

HM

“ A wonderful woman, who was always kind to me.

Harry Miller - September 30, 2025 at 04:53 PM

EP

“ What a vibrant, unique, and embracing woman. Zell embodied the saying she “never met a stranger”. From the time we came to Cincinnati in 1980 to teach at CCM, Zell took us under her wing. We spent many Shabbos with her and Mel, and share many memories of their coming to our concerts as well as the amazing afterwards receptions. Her cookbooks and articles in the Israelite were always exciting to read and her friendship a treasured gift. May her memory be for a blessing.

*Elisabeth and Eugene Pridonoff*

Elisabeth Pridonoff - September 28, 2025 at 12:29 PM

SK

“ Dear family, I am so sorry about your Mom’s passing. I have found myself thinking of her quite often - I hadn’t realized she was still alive! She deserved a long life given her energy and desire to help others. Jeff and I had many conversations about her, as we both enjoyed her so much. Jeff always had good memories of both your folks. Susan Kegeles (Lazarus). And I still have her first cookbook. May her memory be for a blessing.

Susan Kegeles - September 20, 2025 at 10:01 PM

RR

“ The most jazzy loving person I have met will be truly missed thanks for always being kind to me from Rachel the Laundry lady

Rachel Rousseau - September 20, 2025 at 06:17 PM

TB

“ Family and friends of Zell,  
I'm very sorry for your great loss. What a life well lived! Happy to be able to say I crossed paths with this lovely lady! I had the pleasure of her company and was able to cook and serve her while she lived at “the Kenwood”. So many great memories you all have. I had no idea what all Zell accomplished in her 97 years! WOW!! I woke up this morning thinking of Zell! So I decided to google her. Just to find out she only passed away this past Wednesday! Zell YOU were the gift! To all of us who knew you, even a little! Rip dear lady!  
Forever grateful,  
Terri Bollin (cook, server at “The Kenwood,Deli)

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Terri Bollin - September 20, 2025 at 01:23 PM

JS

“ I'll never forget my first Passover Seder which was at the Schulman house. There was love and laughter and I learned a lot that night. Zell was a light that shone brightly. I use her cookbooks often and will think of her with love every time I look at one of her recipes.

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Johanna Shair - September 19, 2025 at 09:50 AM

BM

“ I remember Zell as always being the “life of the party”. She was a talented chef in her own right and authored the best recipes to share with everyone. She was a leader in her volunteer work with the community, and always extended her hand to help needed causes with her professionalism and knowledge. I still have her recipes from a culinary lesson she gave at her home in Zell's Kitchen, that I use to this day. I will miss her and her eagerness to always help others. She will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her. May her memory be a blessing. I am thankful and grateful to have known this exciting, colorful, creative woman.  
Barbara Mandell

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barbara mandell - September 19, 2025 at 09:10 AM

MG

“ *The short time I knew her were delightful. She was such a grand lady in her later years and continued to draw people to her. It was a pleasure to have her come to our Museum. Mary*

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**Mary Grable** - September 18, 2025 at 09:35 PM

PM

“ *I worked for Mrs schulman an her husband for many years. She was a very wonderful person an her children also. I have so many great memories of her I will cherish them for the rest of my life an also her children. I will miss her very much.*

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**Peggy mitchell** - September 18, 2025 at 12:56 PM

BS

“ *I love Zell. She and Mel welcomed me into the extended family with open hearts. May her memory be a blessing.*

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**Beth Ann Shor** - September 18, 2025 at 10:46 AM

LP

“ *Dear Schulman Family,*

*I am so saddened to hear about dear Zell's passing. I called her at the end of July and she was as spirited as always, asking me many questions to make sure I was happy. She was a dear friend to me and I will miss her.*

*With love and friendship,  
Lorrie Platt*

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**Lorrie Platt** - September 18, 2025 at 10:27 AM

AF

*SUCH a wonderful LADY!!  
ALWAYS "ZELL:" NO MATTER WHERE YOU MET HER.  
I'M SORRY FOR YOU LOSS.*

**Alice F Fegelman** - September 21, 2025 at 05:31 PM

MK

*To Zell's extended family,  
We were so sad to learn of Zell's passing. She was a FORCE. She was one of my immigrant mother's first friends in Cincinnati. They remained friends throughout my mother's life. She also welcomed me as a graduate student at UC. I recall fondly many Shabbat dinners at her home. She will be missed. May her Memory be for a blessing.*

**Margie W Kessel** - September 24, 2025 at 02:16 PM

CG

*Dear family,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I loved being part of your family back then, & later came to appreciate the life lessons bestowed by your mother - a light for all. May her memory be a blessing.  
With love,  
Connie Goldman*

**Constance Goldman** - September 27, 2025 at 01:46 PM