

CONDOLENCES RECEIVED VIA EMAIL, IN ORDER OF DATE RECEIVED AFTER MOTHER'S DEATH ON APRIL 25, 2009.

Ken Miller

Mike- I am in Beijing and so sorry to learn of your mother's passing. Please accept my heartfelt condolences as well as those of Lybess who is here with me, and convey them to Toby.

Richard Hokin

I'm very sorry to hear about your mother, and I know that Wendy, and my mom will be as well. Thanks for letting us know.

Luis and Manana Espino, friends in Miami

Mike, so sorry about your Mom. It is always tough, because of the finality of death. Best regards from both of us. See you soon.
Un abrazo.

Ellen Greenberg Kern

Sad news ~ Beautifully written. She will certainly be missed. Appreciate you letting me know. May her memory be a blessing for all of you.

Nathaniel Shoshan

I will always remember her joy she brought to life and everyone around her.

Pam Valinet

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Sylvia Thal

To all the Maidenbergs I have met over the last 17 or is it 18 years. I want to extend my most heartfelt sympathy to all your wonderful family, of all ages. From the first time, I felt comfortable and at home with you because you were so much like my own children & nieces & nephews. Irma also felt like an older sister, and always easy and fun to talk with.

When Jill recently told me Irma was ready, and wanting, to leave, I tried to think back to last Thanksgiving. I was surprised to recall she seemed the same as always, not too tired or seeming "finished" with earthly pursuits. I sensed no loss of spirit, the spirit that made her one of a kind.
So I shall miss Irma & will feel her absence profoundly.

When I go to Jill & Richie's for Shabbat dinner, there I will feel her presence as their house is filled with Aunt Irma, at every stage of whimsy & talent, & in every form. (Forgive me for being mundane, but I'll also think of her delicious sweet potato casserole at Thanksgiving.)

Still, when all is said & done, her truest legacy is her children & how she raised them. I would say she & Milt did one mighty fine job. You have all proven to be great citizens & siblings who care for each other, & seem to be passing these qualities on to the next generations.

So I shall remember Irma with joy, with admiration, with respect & with love.

Sarah Brezavar

I just got the sad news about Irma. What a wonderful and special person she was! I have such fond memories of our visits to Fort Lauderdale.

And how considerate of her not to linger for weeks or even months. I'm so glad all three of you were at her side, and that you are together.

Condolences and love to everyone.

Woody

I am so sorry for Irma's loss. She was loving, giving, and kind. She always made me feel like I was special and contributed a great deal of love to my life. I will miss her and my love for her shall remain steadfast. With all affection to the Maidenbergs thank you for letting me be part of her life.

David Shoshan

She was loved and will be missed by all. Our hearts are with all of you and know she is now back with Milt. She will truly be missed.

Jeff Greenberg

We send our heartfelt condolences to the entire Maidenberg Family.

Rachel Gonsenhauser

I am so sorry to hear of Irma's passing - one classy lady, full of humor and intellect - I wish I had known her better. I believe we have watched two very admirable woman pass in the last ten days - my own mother and now yours. May her memory be a blessing!

Suzy Shoshan

Of course, we are so sorry to get the news and we will miss her. We are thankful for the extra time we got to spend with her over these past winters. She was always so interesting and sharp and, best of all, totally Irma.

Phil Ganz

I spoke to my mother this evening and heard the very sad news. Our families are so entwined that I feel that your mom was a very, very close relative...and I mourn as such.

Pat Maidenberg

So very sorry to hear about Irma. Most of all I'm sorry she lingered, that must have been hard to watch.

I will miss her. I admired her spunk and independence. When I first met Irma, some thirty years ago, I was a little afraid of her. She was so sure of herself and always seemed the center of attention. People were drawn to her and her talents. I hope the days that follow will not be too hard on you, Toby, and Mike.

Helen Rae Resneck

She was a superb human being.

Nelly Bar-Lev

Was sorry to get the news. Please accept my condolences . I'm glad I've got to know her though some years ago. She was really lucky to live at her home independently all these years. Thinking of you all her children and family.

Gaby Shoshan

My memories of my Aunt Irma are vast from all the times growing up and coming to Marion for either Thanksgiving or any other occasion and going directly to the house on Euclid. Always walking in the door and most of the time we ran through Irma's little studio straight to the garage for something to drink usually some kind of juice. That is just where the kindness and the feeling of always being welcome began for me. To the more recent memories of all of Irma's snow-birding adventures in Florida going to visit her in the great apartment she would rent to really enjoying her company at our Passover dinner table with all of her Florida family.

I will miss Irma's kindness, ability to live life so fully and the conversations I had with her. She will be missed greatly and celebrated for the long life she lived.

Tony Roskin

Dearest Michael and Kitty, Reed, Toby and family....the sad news received...your loss is my loss...my heart is breaking as I think of the void I will have for the rest of my life....gone is my longest enduring and most wondrous friend....she always ended her letters to me "fondly" and that's the way I will end this to all of you....fondly....Tony

Michael Spritzer and Marjorie Baron (neighbors of Mike)

Margie and I were saddened to have received your E-mail. Our deepest condolences to you and your family.

Myrrhia (daughter of Helen Resneck)

I will never forget the time I got to spend with Irma. She showed me her bracelets, pillows and napkin rings. They stylistically depicted soft shapes of dancers, animals and gorgeous women in vibrant colors, hot pink, glitter, cobalt lace, sequins and vintage jewelry applied on them.

Irma invited me to use her amazing studio and gave me art materials I had never used before. It looked like molten glass as you worked with it, and you could shape and reshape it with your bare hands and hot water. I used her paint, which Irma kept in all the colors of the rainbow plus metallics.

I remember sitting on her black leather couch in her glamorous moderne home, and joking around with Irma's mother, who at 96 had insightful analysis of new relative's diets and personalities. I remember the exact way Irma folded and crossed her legs on the couch. I sit like that a lot now.

Those who know me and how I have pursued sculpture and fiber arts can probably see that I am about halfway to becoming good enough to cover for Irma.

Wendy Roskin

Your mom, my Aunt Irma, was a truly remarkable woman...bright, talented and beautiful even in her "senior" years. She will be missed... but remembered through the many pieces of art that adorn our home. Paul and I share in your sorrow. Love to you all...

Marlene Abel Calderone

Stan & I send our love to you and wanted you to know we share your sadness for the loss of a great lady. Irma is not likely to be forgotten by anyone whose lives she touched, including ours.

[Note to Reed on Facebook: " I wanted to say how very sorry I am for your loss. Your mom was something special... When your dad had that awful car accident and ended up in the hospital in Lafayette, we unexpectedly got to know both your parents better

and admired them greatly. Irma's devotion to Milt was inspiring. I am sure you are feeling the vacuum of their absence greatly at this time, but having been in your shoes, I know that time and the memory of them both does help get you through. I remember feeling (strangely) like an orphan when Tootsie died, if one can be an orphan at age 60. Again, my love to you, Mike & Toby. I hate losing Maidenbergs... you are among my favorite people in world. M."]

Leslie Dupin (Kitty's sister)

My heart goes out to you and all your family. Irma has touched all our lives. One of my favorite memories is a wonderful dinner shared in Ft. Lauderdale with Irma, Ann G. and my two sisters. It was Sarah's 60th birthday and your mother presented me with a gift on my big sister's birthday, a lovely piece of jewelry. I continually get compliments on it and always have to explain the connection that my sister's mother-in-law gave it to me on my other sister's birthday. AND I still wear the best looking apron in the world with years of stains but what a beautiful picture your mom painted on it. I will miss her.

Dima Rosenberg

Irma was a wonderful woman. Her kindness touched us even though we didn't have a chance to spend much time with her. Her art is on display at our house, and her smile and heart will be with us forever.

Mike Levin

I was deeply saddened when I received Mike's email telling of Irma's passing. Carol and I want to express our profound condolences to you and your families. I have never before sent a condolence note that was not handwritten on fine paper stock as a show of respect. I pondered that overnight, and concluded that my impression of Irma was that she loved to embrace the "new" and would have approved of email as an appropriate medium.

Like others who have written, Mike's email brought a flood of happy memories: early college trips to Marion; reciprocal visits with Toby in Ann Arbor and Bloomington; delighting in watching Reed grow up; college graduation; Mike and Kitty's wedding; and visits with Irma and Milt at the Standard Club when portions of your clan gathered in Chicago. Irma always seemed special to me, and I asked myself what it was about her that I found so compelling. My answer is that she always made me raise my game. Her questions were never perfunctory, and were always followed by more questions reflecting genuine interest and great perception, and her sense of humor was very strong. I had to work at responding at her level intellectually, and add some humor to my repartee as well. She brought out the best in me, and I expect she did that for many others. She was a very special person.

Vicki Maidenberg Pemberton

In Buddhism, it states that once a loved one takes their last breath, they pass into a new house at death to live and love again. In Judaism, we are remembered in the love of our families. Each of us serves a mission during our life, and once our mission is accomplished, we pass in peace and smile lovingly from above.

[From an earlier e-mail: I am sitting here remembering Thanksgivings shared, occasional parties that were such fun. Reed would play his guitar and sing silly songs. Uncle Milt and Dad would find something to argue about and Aunt Irma always the gracious hostess.

She made me the funniest postcard which I still have with Meyer's head on a different body – and she also gave me a small piece of beautiful artwork from your home. Aunt Irma was always upbeat, and always with that sense of humor which warmed anyone in her presence.]

Robin Silverman (Grand Forks' friend)

Our hearts go out to all of you. What a fabulous lady! She truly was one-of-a-kind, and will be so deeply missed. We loved her wit, her keen insights, her creativity, her straightforwardness, her warmth and generosity. I have a collection of her wonderful jewelry that I cherish, and will wear one of her pins every day this week as a tribute. We know how much you'll all undoubtedly miss Thanksgivings at her house, but oh! What wonderful memories you all must have.

May the memories of her make you laugh, cry and feel ever-so-grateful that this amazing person was your mother/grandmother.

[Jill Thal then wrote Robin: "I'm Mike's cousin Jill from Madison. I met you at a Maidenbergh wedding or two and I just want to thank you for your lovely and oh so true words about Irma. Wasn't she something? I have known her all my life and am trying to remember when I first realized she was extraordinary."]

[Robin replied: "Thanks for the kind words. I used to call Irma 'my heroine,' because she was everything I wanted to be as I aged. She really was amazing, and time spent in her presence always made you feel better--a little sharper, a little more possible. She really was a no bull kind of person, and called the shots as she saw them. Plus, her presence was so utterly magnetic. I loved her clothes, always simple with one amazing piece of jewelry that she designed. She'd walk into a room, and you knew that the conversation was about to become remarkable. She'll be deeply missed, but very much remembered."]

Patty Brewer

Many people love their parents, but it has always been so apparent that you both enjoyed and admired yours. Mike's chuckle always preceded the latest news about Irma. She was both warm and welcoming on those visits to Marion. Clearly home was a place of challenging conversation, art and food. Much of that grace has rubbed off on both of you. How very fortunate that she knew her grandchildren as adults and then their children.

Sidney and Louis Malin

Sidney and Louise send their deeply felt condolences from London. Their memories of playing bridge with Irma and one of her grandsons whenever they came to a Thanksgiving are still fresh. If ever they think of the word feisty they have Irma in mind.

Peter Bermont (friend in Miami who met Mother)

Thank you for letting us know of your Mother's passing. It sounds like she had a full life and I know first-hand how proud she was of her family. Kerrin and I have you and your whole family in our thoughts. We know how much she will be missed.

Kathy and Hal Gershman

We are so sorry to hear of Irma's passing. We have been remarking how unique she was for her years and interests: proud parent, grandparent, great-grandparent and mother-in-law, loyal friend, singular artist, cheery salesperson (!), Charlie Rose fan, NPR listener, New Yorker reader, and ACLU member. Her stylish presence at a gathering not only brightened a crowd, it guaranteed a provocative conversation. A good review at any age.

Josh and Wendy Markus (Camp Nebagamon, Miami)

We are so sorry to hear this, Mike. She was so vibrant and lively. Our thoughts are with you and Reed.

Elan Frank

So, so sorry to hear about sweet, beautiful Irma. When Reed called and told me about it, I was standing in the middle of the street in an "Earth Day" fair in Pasadena, and started crying, uncontrolled, and stood there for a few long minutes, letting the tears of remembrance, of sadness and goodbye just pour out. I loved Irma, her wittiness and caring, her unique creativity and talent, her warmth, her smile. And because of all of that, and because Reed is (like) my brother, the times I spent with Irma definitely felt family, like being with my own mom. That's the kind of unconditional care and love she radiated, that the kind of person she was to me. And how interesting, Irma left this world within 24 hours of her granddaughter's birthday, Emma-Rose.

We all in the Frank family, Limor, the kids and me, are with you in your grief, sending all the love, strength and support.

Jessica Velonis Nunziata

I am very sorry to hear about the passing of your Mother. I do remember Irma's smiling face when she visited in Florida many years ago.

John Seesel (Camp Nebagamon)

Although I met her only a few times -- most memorably, during a wonderful, helium-fueled weekend in Marion -- I have clear and very enjoyable memories of your mother (and your father as well). I appreciate your letting me know of this sad news and want you to know that Joanne and I are thinking of you and your family.

Frank Nachman (Camp Nebagamon)

Be grateful for the many wonderful memories and the chance to have an adult (!) relationship. I have fond memories of two visits to Marion and seeing her two years ago in Florida. I recall discussing with her a novel we both recently read. I have heard it said that in our faith when someone dies the living have to recapture the loss of humanity the departed left behind. We will all have to try a little harder to fill in the void.

Sue Greenberg

So sorry to hear about your mom's passing. It was my great loss not to know Irma, though I'm learning about her with each successive email I receive from your roster of devoted friends and relatives.

May you all be comforted in your grief by all the vivid recollections ricocheting across the country.

Michael Blickman

Please extend my sincere condolences to Reed, and Toby also. It has been nice to read the reminiscences of so many friends and family. She touched many lives, including ours, and is truly a person who will be forever remembered. My mom was saddened to hear the news, and I asked her to make sure she called Aunt Betty. Their early lives with the loving Bernstein family, with my Aunts Mary, Julie, Ethel, Sarah (Sis) and Rose (who as you know I did not know), and many memorable days at Lake Manitou in Rochester formed such a strong bond among all of them. With families now spread around the country, I have a deep appreciation and some envy for what they shared. I always felt close to Irma and loved our visits on Euclid to see her, your Dad and Aunt Mary when she was there. Your mom told stories of summer days and nights at the Lake, and her sharp memory and wit made them come to life. What a great lady in the true sense of that word.

Barbara Horwich Lloyd

I am so sad to hear this, but what a great life your Mom had! I loved her and always enjoyed being with her. She had that great little chuckle, and her artistic talent was wonderful!

Ben, Jr. and Vera

Mike...received news on Irma...she was a great person..she was always very nice to me..it's a big loss...again, very sorry.

Floyd Brezavar

I will remember fondly the conversations I had with your Mother, Christmas of '07, at Club Maid. She was one sharp lady, Right on target re: Obama and always up to date with the Art Scene.

Joan Henkle (sorority sister of Kitty's, lives in Indianapolis)

I was reading the obituaries this morning (as I always do - what does that say?) and I noticed that your mother died, Mike. My sincerest sympathy. The loss of a parent is always difficult, to say the least. Please feel that you can drop in on us at any time when you are in the area - and I hope you do! What is this going to do with those great Maidenberg reunions you have at Thanksgiving?

Erica Silverman (Robin and Steve's daughter)

Just spoke to my mom and she told me about Irma's passing. I'm so sorry to hear it. I have such great memories of her fun personality and great energy (and her amazing art.) I'm sure she'll be incredibly missed. Wanted to send my love to you and your wonderful family and let you know I was thinking about you all.

Nancy Young

The Colorful Irma: When I first met Irma, I was not aware that she was twenty years my senior. She and I communicated as contemporaries. She did needle-point, gourmet cooking, made jewelry, read widely, was up-to-date on current affairs, loved word games, card games, great fan of the movies, had a wide interest in music and the arts, especially the artists and their works. She embraced life. Marion, Indiana was not her world, the world was her world.

To quote from *Auntie Mame*, "Life is a banquet and most sons-of-bitches are starving to death", that was Irma!

Growing up in the inner city of Cleveland in a self-imposed Hungarian ghetto, I observed the gypsies and their customs. When a child is born, they grieve and even hire professional mourners to sing dirges. They believe that this innocent baby is born into a cold, cruel world. Yet, when a death occurs, they have a big party that lasts for days. They rejoice and celebrate for days that they have been released from this world.

Today, I choose to take a tip from the gypsies. I rejoice in having known Irma, her friendship, her wit and great style. Yes, I mourn for my loss of not having more of her - but - I mourn more for the people who never knew her. With love, respect and great admiration for the true Renaissance woman, Irma.

Sujata (Diya) Banerjee, Calcutta

Please accept my condolences. Myself and Kalyan, along with my ma - Noton, my baba - Dwija, my sister - Toto & her husband Debu are deeply touched by learning about Irma "dida" and are grieved. We pray for her soul to rest in peace.

Dwijadas Banerjee, Calcutta

My deepest condolences at the demise of our Masima, your mother. How sad! I have failed to meet your parents. Sadness and happiness move continuously in a circle. That's life indeed.

Susan Callen

We know she was an extraordinary woman whose influence will continue to affect the Maidenberg generations.

Marilyn Ganz Varon

Your mother was a huge, wonderful presence in my life and I will miss her.

Avraham Fleck

Your mother often told me that that a lot of the traditions I spun out for her may have been "bubba meises"--but I think she got some "nachas" hearing them anyway. So I have to write these words with some trepidation (whatever that is)--but since you requested it from me--and since she meant so much to me.....here goes:

Irma always had beauty, style, guts & creativity--and this was particularly apparent since she came from a place where, frankly, there was not a lot of beauty, style, guts & creativity apparent. She really stood out--she was, and remains, unforgettable--so beautiful--so vibrant--so individual--so full of wonder: thus so wonderful. We are all so different & so blessed for having the privilege of knowing her--& of course that goes so much more so for you, Toby, & Michael who were blessed to come forth literally from within her--this is truly awesome.

I often think that all of us come from a chain: link after link from Creation (in our tradition "Adam & Eve") step by step, link by link to our own selves....& onward.....beyond & beyond. Milt has moved on, & now your mother as well. And we as well move onward and onward, & our descendents as well.....being.....becoming.

When we try to comfort mourners we leave them with the words: May the "Makom" comfort you among all the mourners of Zion & Jerusalem. The word "Makom" means "place." Actually, in our tradition, G*d's name is spelled (as it were) YHVH. Each Hebrew letter has a numerical value. The value of Y squared + H squared + V squared + H squared = the value of "Makom." There is a Place ("Makom") within the heart of all of us which is the source of all comfort.

You should be blessed to find comfort from that place with all of the mourners (& that means sooner or later all of us) of Zion & Jerusalem. May the Blessed One wipe every tear from every eye, & may we all be blessed to see a complete redemption for all mankind speedily & in our days.

Michael Fox (friend who lives in New York)

We heard with sadness about your mother's rapid decline and death. We hope it was a consolation to you that you were able to be with her at the end and that you could say your goodbyes. Still, no matter at what age we lose a parent, a mother especially, we feel like an orphan.

We never knew her directly, but we remember with warmth and laughter the whimsical and utterly charming napkin rings your mother made for you. Her strength of character, her love of life, and her keen and joyful awareness of the nuances of human existence lived in that art. From the obituary you lovingly wrote for her it was clear how much you loved her and how much she and the gifts she brought were sources of strength to your entire family. May they continue to be so. Please share our heartfelt sympathies with Kitty, di kinder, di eyniklekh, and di ur-eyniklekh,

Bernie Diamond

Your mother with charm, kindness and a bright smile always made one shy, though perhaps at time obnoxious, boy feel welcomed in her home. I have never forgotten her warmth. I'm thankful for the brief visit I had with you and her a few years ago.

My mother fortunately was sick only a brief time and suffered no pain; I hope your mom did as well.

You had a GREAT MOTHER! Smile and remember the good times.

Nancy Bassler Schmid (phone conversation)

She was never a little old lady.

Rita Blickman Kesler

I know this is a hard time for all of you--what a generous, incredible woman. It's always been a mystery to me how she remained so focused and independent--maybe from those strong Bernstein sisters! I may not have seen her much since I've been in NC, but my memories of her and your dad have always been so vivid.

Adrienne (Sarah Gevirtz' aunt) and Dick

I read about your mother....what an accomplished wonderful woman she was. How nice for you to have that kind of a mom growing up! Must have been a fun place to come home to as a kid!! I'm glad you had her to enjoy all these years and I hope you can find peace in the future with happy memories....

Ted Jadwin (Camp Nebagamon)

I'm so sorry to hear the sad news. It seems like two lifetimes ago, but I remember meeting your mother nearly 50 years ago. Her warmth and sense of humor were immediately evident.

Patrick Hamilton (high school friend of Reed's)

I was saddened to hear about your mother's passing. She certainly was a true friend to me. A bit of a role model and a bit of a confidant when I couldn't speak to my own parents. And of course, she made your home a hive of activity and a sanctuary, somehow simultaneously. A gift for giving she had. I rejoice knowing she enjoyed her life and her family every day of her life.

Rabbi Alan Bennett (Camp Nebagamon)

When we hear of someone's death in Hebrew we say, *baruch dayan ha-emet*, blessed is the judge of truth. In English we say "May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem" and "May she rest in peace." I'm sorry for your loss, and hope that you and she had a great relationship, that you will have tons of wonderful memories, and that she was – and will continue to be – an inspiration to you and the others whose life she touched.

Alan Culley (elementary school friend of Reed's)

So sorry to hear about the passing of your mother, she lived a wonderful amazing life. I remember when I was very young and your classmate at Horace Mann she would always have a snack for me & other friends who came to visit.

Rick Ballard (high school friend of Reed's)

Thanks so much for sharing your Mom's story and her artwork. She was a lovely and creative woman who enriched the lives of family, friends, and acquaintances beyond what we will ever know. I think this is the nature of our immortality, and the impact of her life will be felt forever—certainly well beyond the recollection of those who knew her.

You may (or may not) recall that my grandfather, Horton Ballard, was an artist in oils and acrylics of some repute in Marion and central Indiana. When he died in 1984 he left a number of paintings. Maybe 50 or 60 out of the hundreds that he painted stayed in our family. Today our home, our cottage in northern Michigan, my office, our children's homes, my brother's home and HIS children's homes—all are constant reminders of his life, his travels with my grandmother and with us, his creative spirit. As the family grows through generations, this artwork will gradually spread around our children and grandchildren. My brother's and my grandchildren never knew him, but they will know about him for generations. You are fortunate to have a similar family legacy of delightful zest and joy.

93 years is the stuff of a rich and full life. But somehow that is never enough, is it? As one who has been similarly "orphaned" (my dad and mom died in 1991 and 2000 respectively) I have a sense of the lost that you are feeling. But I trust that you will be a support to your family, and vice versa, and that you will be strengthened by those signs of Irma that see in your family members, the artwork she has left behind, and the stories of the innumerable times and ways that she enriched all of you.

Tom Prager

I am saddened by the passing of your mom, an outstanding, sophisticated woman who was always part of my life. However she had a hell of a run and leaves a legacy where many lives were enriched by her art and love. Of course I resonated to the pithy sarcasm. I had a long dinner with Irma about two years ago during a Ft. Lauderdale eye meeting and I was impressed by her vivaciousness and humor. It was Irma who turned me on to Jon Stewart.

Sandy Smith (old friend of Reed's, Harmony & Lotus member)

Irma - actually, both your parents - were strong, intelligent, kind individuals. They epitomized the best of Jewish culture. Irma offered art and beauty, an encouragement to the creative.

Howard Kossover, Grand Forks' B'nai Israel congregation

We had your Mom's name included at services this past weekend.

Mike Zimmerman

I've been thinking a lot about Irma. It's hard to sum it all up in a few words. She was a great friend to my mother and given Helen's nature, that's

quite an accomplishment. Many have written about Irma's skill in the art of jewelry. But that of course was not her only skill. She was wonderfully gifted in the art of living fully and she impressed me greatly.

Susan and Alfred Feingold, Miami

Alfred and I are deeply saddened to learn of the death of Mike's mother. What a beautiful obituary and tribute to a remarkable woman. May your loving memories of your mom be a comfort to you now - and always. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**THE FOLLOWING WERE RECEIVED AT THE TIME OF THE MEMORIAL
CELEBRATION, JUNE 6**

Frannie Pack, Marion

When I first moved back to Marion, in 1978, I was appointed Business Manager of the Marion Philharmonic. The following Spring, the MPO major money-maker Auction was held. During the silent auction, I noted that the volunteers had done a fine job of gathering donations for the silent auction. I was particularly drawn to some original jewelry which, I discovered, was made by your mother. Bids were fast and furious, and it was no wonder; I had never seen such distinctive and attractive pieces: definitely one-of-a-kind! They were the hit of the event! Marilyn Feighner had told me what a talented artist your mother was, but that was the first time I had seen any of her work.

When Marilyn told me that your mother had agreed to design tote bags to be given to the top ticket sellers during the following campaign, I was delighted. You can only imagine my bewilderment when I saw the actual bag. It was a print which had been applied to an otherwise very plain and, might I say, inexpensive bag: the figure of a naked lady (tastefully "arranged") with "Marion Philharmonic" in writing moving into her hip, as I recall, swirling from a place below her body.

I was bemused-- but confused--- knowing your mother must have had something in mind concerning the ticket sales, etc., but I couldn't understand it. Marilyn grinned and said, "Don't you get it?" No, I didn't. "It's an ivory nude!"

"And?" I wondered. Marilyn laughed and said, "You have to know Irma to understand!" Well, I didn't-- and Marilyn wouldn't tell me.

For over a week I couldn't get it out of my mind. Then, one evening, just as I finished dinner, I started giggling. Finally I was laughing so hard that tears were rolling down my cheeks!!! My mother couldn't stand it! "What on earth is going on?" she asked.

"I figured it out!! The ivory nude--- it stands for 'I've renewed!' " It was one of the catch phrases of the ticket campaign!!!

I have searched all over the place for my bag! For YEARS it hung on the doorknob of

my closet on Wabash Avenue-- but when we moved to North Drive, there were no knobs on the doors of the closets, so I tucked it away somewhere so I would always have it. I have searched high and low for it but to no avail.

Rest assured that when I find it, I will give it to you as a nod of appreciation for and recognition of her artistry and her cleverness. WHAT A WOMAN!!!!

Marilyn Ganz

My thoughts on Irma:

I didn't know her well while I was growing up, but I do remember that I thought she was beautiful, glamorous (I remember her in the Temple shows), creative and sophisticated.

I'm sure you've heard those words many times to describe her.

However, when she started spending the winters in Florida, I really got to know her better and I would still use those same adjectives along with some others: opinionated, free-thinker, a fashion plate.

I am a relatively new Bridge player and my mother always wanted to have a game with Irma, Betty and me. I wouldn't go for it...I was afraid that I would be completely embarrassed playing with such experienced players.

But I finally agreed and ended up having a good time. At the end of the game, Irma said that I was a good player. At first I thought that she was just saying that to be nice. But then I realized that no, Irma wouldn't say it if she didn't mean it. What a compliment that I'll never forget!

Another thought: What a treat to always have one of her delicious meals when I would come to Marion. It was always just "pure fun" to be in her home. She was one fun lady.

I wish I could be with you all.

David Zuckerman

Until last night's dream, I've been struggling with composing an Irma anecdote that is meaningful, inspiring and substantive enough to be considered relevant at this time of mourning her passing. I also apologize if my silence has been misconstrued as unsympathetic, as I have this bad habit of not following traditional means of expressing loss to those grieving or at least not in a timely manner. Everyone deals with death differently. For me, I'm more comfortable grieving privately, then partaking in ceremonies that honor and remember our loved ones w/ family and friends. To each his or her own...

The dream begins with Reed telling me I better get this over to him pronto because Irma's memorial service is today. So, time's passing quickly and I feel guilty that I don't have anything to offer to share with Irma's family and friends. Suddenly, as in theatre flashback, Reed and I are in Portland, OR. desperately trying to locate the restaurant that we had such a memorable dinner with Irma and Ruth. I'm thinking in my dream, if I can find this restaurant, then we can relive this perfect meal we had together and capture the essence of the moment and selfishly hold onto it forever. You need to understand, that for many years afterwards, whenever I would visit Irma, she would always bring up how much she thoroughly enjoyed that dinner and company. That would always make me feel good to hear and, ask Reed, it was true! It was one of those magical dinner dates that you wish could go on forever. Well, Reed and I never did find the restaurant in my dream. I awoke with a hollow feeling and sadness inside. A few moments later, voila, the profound meaning of the dream hit me between the eyes.

Barbara and I have our house filled with Irma's art. It's not the art itself that makes us feel good when we admire it. It's Irma. She will forever be in our hearts and our house will always be Safe from Tigers.

And, as I've told Reed, there's a vast Sinai spirit in the sky, all our loved ones. We can take peace and comfort in knowing they are watching over us and provide us happiness, strength and wisdom whenever we call upon them.

Mark Zuckerman

It goes without saying that Cookie and I wish we were there with everyone to celebrate Irma's wonderful life. We have been realizing how much her artistic temperament resonated with us.

Aside from our whirlwind Thanksgiving galas, Cookie and the boys and I have been lucky enough to spend a couple of weeks every summer in Marion - lazy days filled with love and great food...

It was during one of these summer visits that I was blessed with a revelation. Irma always invited us over for one of her wonderful dinners, and as always, afterward, we were all relaxing on the back porch - the thick, warm summer night air was filled with the

magical flashes of fireflies and the symphony of night sounds that drown out all negative thought - those of us from Los Angeles were completely entranced... I was sitting between my mother and Irma, Cookie was close and Frank was across the room relaxing in one of those comfortable lounge chairs. And all of a sudden, it hit me like a diamond bullet - Art and Love make the world go round! As I think back on it now, it makes all the sense in the world that this clarity of thought would come to me in Irma's home.

As is the case with most revelations, it faded from my consciousness over the years. However, just recently, it hit me again and I am certain Irma was reminding me, reminding me to keep in mind what's important, reminding me to never forget - Art and Love make the world go round!

Just thought you should know.

Zachary Thacher

She was a wonderful inspiration, I'll never forget the feeling of approaching her house in Marion, with its tidy, sensible houses and straight forward Midwestern aesthetic, and then entering her living room full of art, silver wallpaper, chic furnishings, massive coffee table photo books... and basically everything a stylish bachelor in downtown New York could ever want. We often utter the cliché of being one of a kind, but in this case, it's accurate for Irma.