

***One of the Tallest People I Have Ever Known***  
by Hal Babitch



Often the stature of a person is measured in feet and inches rather than by the accomplishments, achievements, influence, respect and impact on and to others.

Leida Uretsky led 3 simultaneous livelihoods, positively affecting all she came in contact with and in the spirit of Tikkun Olam, left this world a much better place than when she came into it.

First was family: Leida was married 60 years to her beloved Carl; they had 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. This in itself is a major contribution towards the continuation of Jewish life and a remarkable achievement unto itself.

Second was her impact and influence towards promoting Jewish Life -- She was President of B'nai Brith's Beth Alpha Girls as a teenager in Manchester, New Hampshire; President of B'nai Brith in Peabody, Massachusetts; Woman of the Year and Vice President of the Massachusetts North Shore Regional Council of B'nai Brith; President of Hadassah in Fall River, Massachusetts; at age 51 she became a Bat Mitzvah; Treasurer, Vice President and President of Anshai Emet; formed the Sisterhood and became its first president at Anshai Emet; formed Hazak and became its first president; Leida and Carl wrote and distributed the Kol Emet in the early years of Anshai Emet. She also served on numerous committees at Anshai Torah, including our Tenth Anniversary Celebration, and chaired *Our Wall of Presidents*; Leida and Carl have been members of our congregation for 35 years.

Third: A working housewife and mother (in her spare time). Leida was the Jewish Community Center Food Service Manager for Seniors; a paralegal for Accounting and Law Firms; Volunteer at Medical City. She was a great Mah Jongg player too...loved the game and always found time to play.

Leida was one of the major building blocks of Anshai Torah and was part of the foundation which made possible Anshai's viability, success and growth.

So one can easily see why Leida's stature, in terms of her height of 4'9" which some might say in today's world of political correctness as being vertically challenged, was really 10 feet tall and why I say, Leida Uretsky was one of the tallest people I had the pleasure and honor of knowing. She will be sorely missed but never forgotten.