

Memory Book

For

Sheila Fern DeWoskin



Sheila was born to Sylvia and Al DeWoskin on October 29, 1938 in St. Louis, Missouri. Her parents were recent immigrants whose families fled from the Russian pogroms against the Jews. She was their second daughter, born two years after her sister, Barbara.



Barbara

Sheila



From the start, Sheila was the more shy of the two, and Barbara claimed the title of “leader” from an early age.

During World War II, the family lived with her aunts and cousins, since most of the men were helping the war effort. Sheila got used to living with her extended family.



Sheila entered school in St. Louis and soon showed her true academic colors. She was an apt scholar and earned high marks in most of her endeavors.

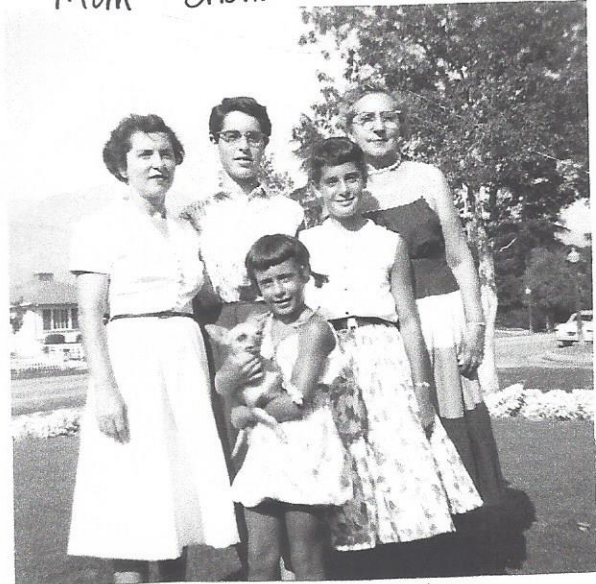
Before the end of the war in 1943, another sister, Gail, joined the family, followed by the baby Lynn, in 1948. Soon the family moved to California, leaving most of her relatives behind.

Barbara Dad Sheila



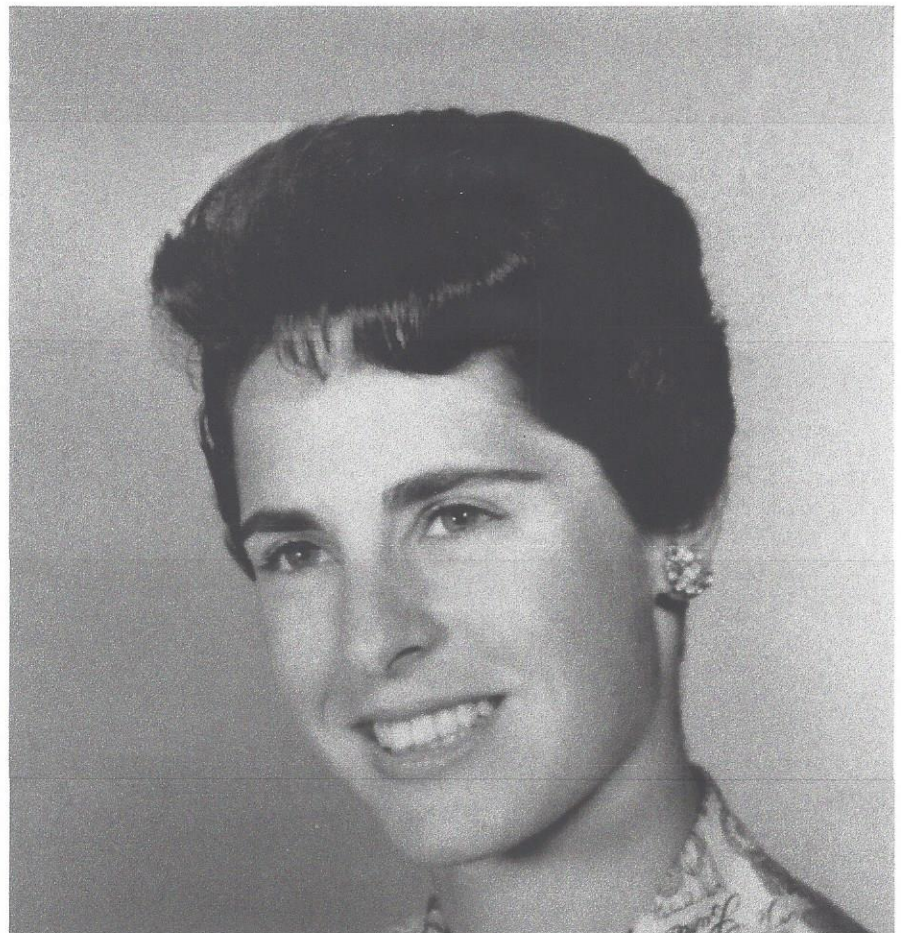
Lynn Mom Gail

Mom Sheila ?



Bobo Lynn Gail

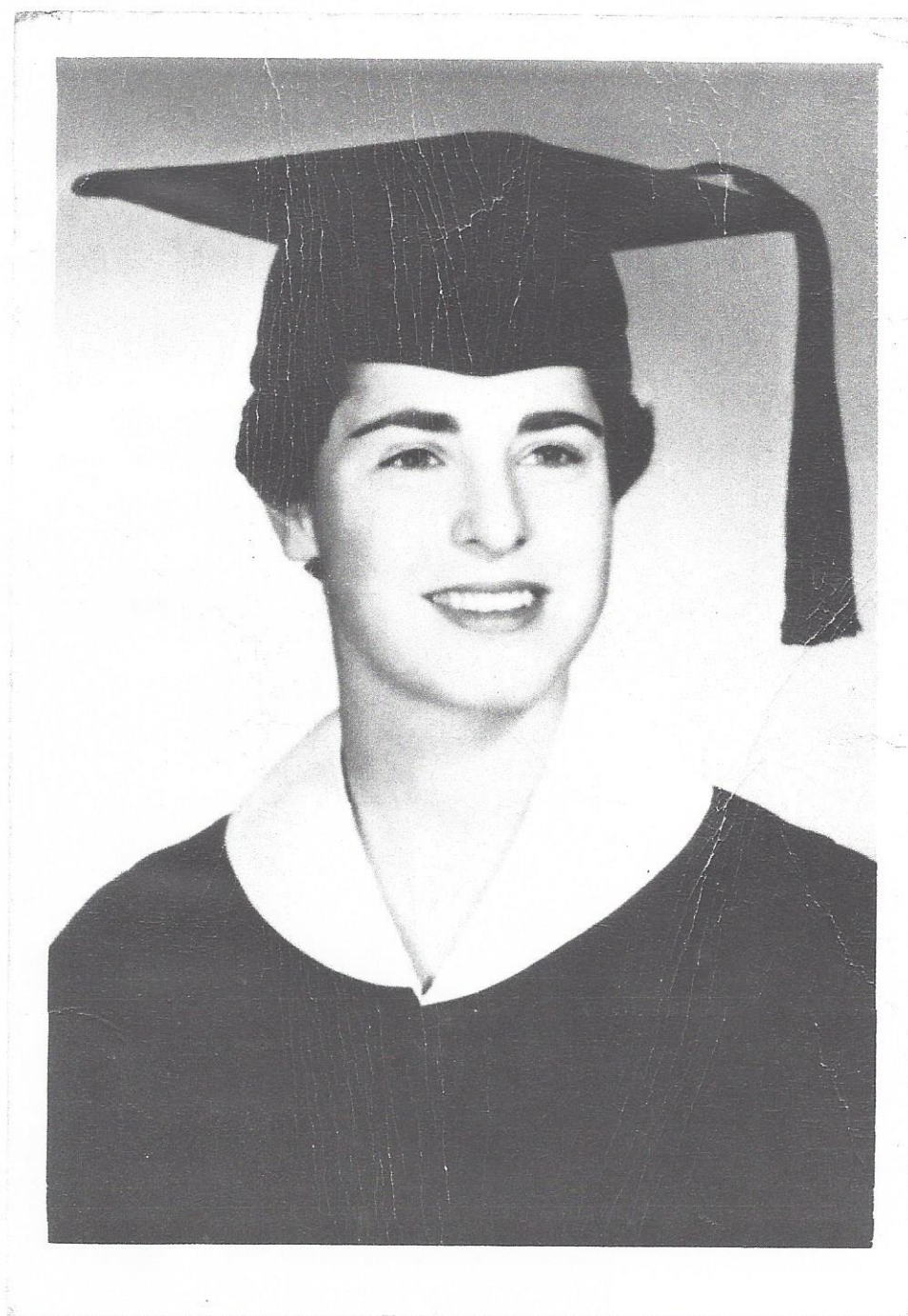
Sheila continued to succeed in school. She maintained high marks in her religious studies as well as excelling in sports. Her confirmation from Pasadena Jewish Community Synagogue was marked by academic distinction. So, too, was her graduation from Pasadena City High School in 1956.





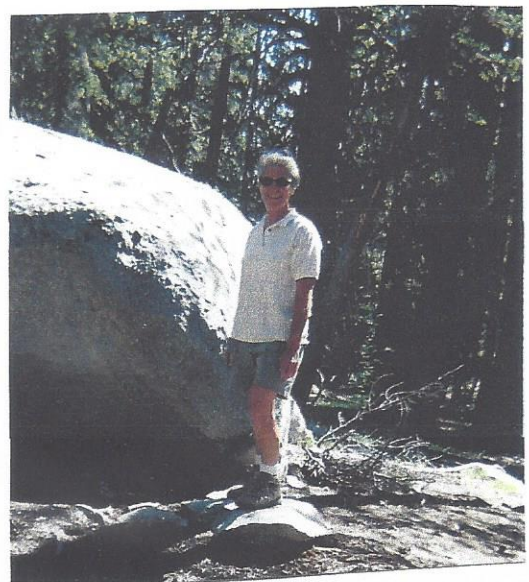
After receiving a full scholarship to Scripps College in Claremont, CA, Sheila attended her freshman year away from home. During this time, Barbara had married and the rest of the family moved to San Diego.

For the remainder of her undergraduate education, Sheila re-joined the family to attend San Diego State, receiving a BA and a MA in physical education, as well as her teaching credentials.





Sheila moved out to start life on her own when she began teaching physical education in the Grossmont Union High School District. Her well-developed love of physical activity became a life-long passion, and she enjoyed a healthy life. She was game for most activities, hiking, swimming, basketball, tennis, softball to name but a few. She also maintained her love of animals, typically having at least one or two dogs share her life.





Sheila eventually shared a home with long-time friend, Rossi Newton, in the San Carlos area of San Diego. Both Sheila and Rossi once helped sail a yacht for singer, Glen Yarbrough, from Hawaii to San Diego as a chance to have an exciting adventure. Even though she was two weeks late for the start of her school year teaching, she thought it was worth it (see following news article on the event).

Shayndle + Sheila



Rossi





**HOME AT LAST**—Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Wightman rest on Armorel,

the cutter the couple just brought over to San Diego from Hawaii.

## Boat's Crew Tired, Late, But Elated

By **VERN GRIFFIN**  
EVENING TRIBUNE Boating Writer

You might wonder if Monroe Wightman would have any trouble lining up another crew for his next Pacific cruise.

After all, his most recent voyage from Hawaii to San Diego in the stout English-built cutter Armorel didn't follow the script for an easy crossing.

First, there was too little wind and then three storms battered the 40-foot boat. A gear failure threatened to dismast the vessel and the batteries went dead, knocking out the Armorel's radio and engine.

Under sail alone, they struggled against unfavorable winds as they neared the West Coast, finally making landfall at Santa Barbara where the engine was fixed, according to Wightman, 55, a Silver Gate Yacht Club member who brought the vessel into a berth at the Shelter Island club late Wednesday night.

### Two Jobs Affected

And as a result of the much longer than expected voyage, one of the crew, an El Cajon schoolteacher, was two weeks late for her job. Another, Charles Tragessor, a San Diego machinist, ended up losing his job.

But Wightman might not have to look any farther than his old crew when he decides to go to sea gain.

All of them said they feel the voyage was the chance of a lifetime.

"It was worth every bit of

it," grinned Tragessor yesterday right after finding out he'd lost his job. Tragessor lives aboard the 36-foot ketch Golden Hind with his family at Silver Gate.

"We jumped at the chance," said Miss Sheila DeWoskin of 8421 Bashan Lake Ave., San Diego. She's the schoolteacher who sailed aboard the Armorel with her San Diego roommate, Miss Rossi Newton.

### Voyage Called Exciting

"It was our first long voyage, and it was very exciting."

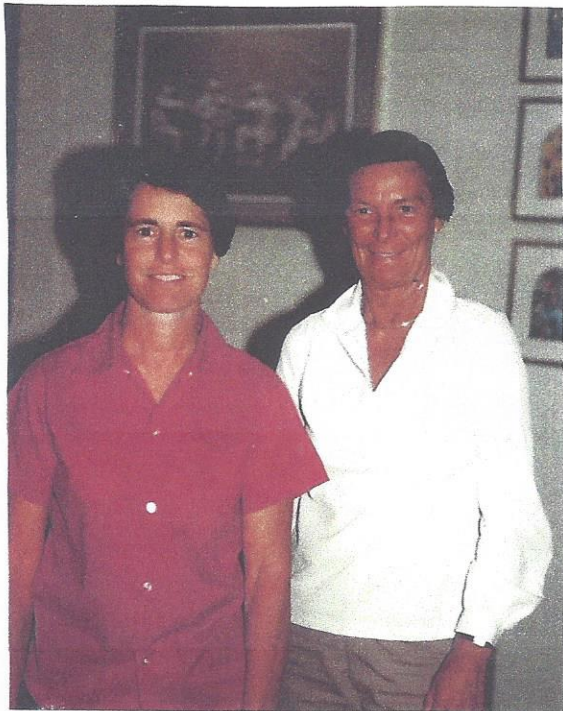
Wightman said they covered 3,160 miles and they didn't really run into any big problems along the way. His wife, Olga, was the fifth crew member aboard.

"It just took a lot longer than we had thought," noted Wightman, who was delivering the vessel to San Diego for her owner, singer Glen Yarbrough. Yarbrough lives in the Los Angeles area and has had the boat in Hawaii for the past five years.

The Armorel's a big, roomy boat that has a full keel and carries two tons of inside ballast, he said. The boat sleeps five comfortably in her forward cabin, main salon and aft cabin.



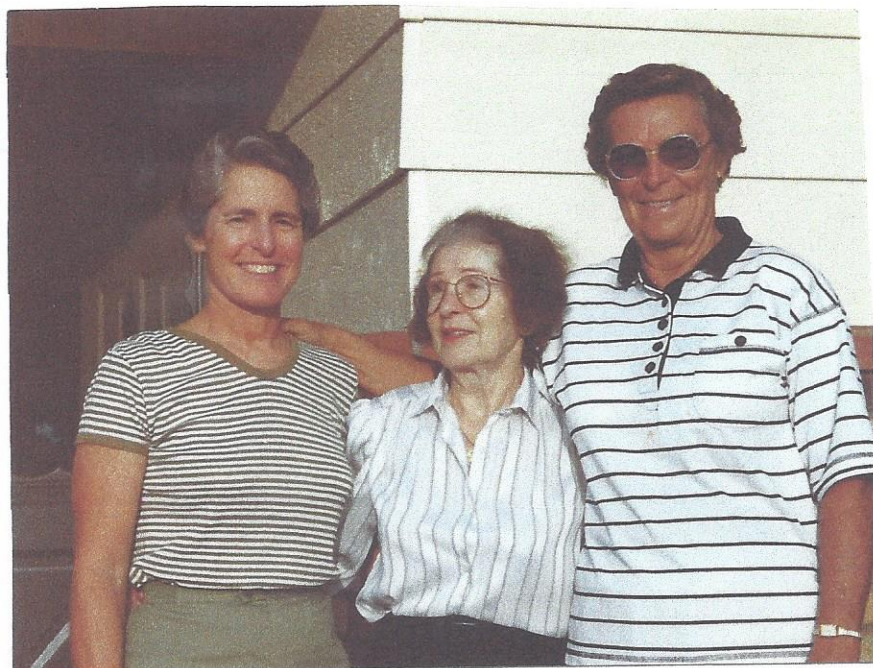
Sheila continued to teach for various schools within the Grossmont School District over the next 13 years. She eventually met and fell in love with Mary Spall, and on October 12, 1973 they held a life commitment ceremony together. They moved to a 20-acre ranch in Aguanga, CA, still within San Diego County, where Sheila taught in a one-room schoolhouse and Mary drove the school bus.



Sheila Mary



Sheila Mary



Sheila Mom Mary

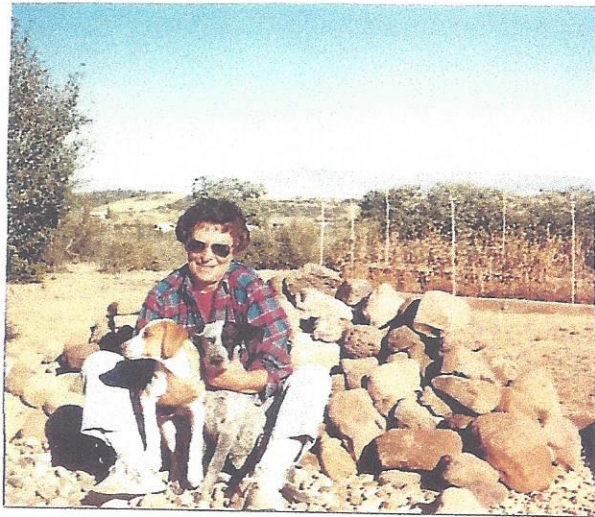


In 1985 they decided it was time to retire from their education jobs, so Sheila & Mary bought a trailer, packed up the dogs and toured the US for a year to find where they would like to settle. They liked Prescott, Arizona the best and moved there in 1987.



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Sheila  
Cade + Patch



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Mary  
Cade + Patch



Sheila and Mary found fulfillment in building their lives together in Prescott. Mary became an athletic director for Prescott Parks & Recreation and Sheila began working for the Yavapai Hospital as a technician. Both of them were able to pursue their interests, with Mary becoming a site supervisor for the Yavapai Archeology Association and Sheila strengthening her connection to Temple Brith Shalom, becoming its President and Board Member over the years. Both Mary and Sheila were active in the gay & lesbian community as well.

## *Observing Passover*



Courier/Rob Densmore

Barbara Fruchter pours wine for Sheila DeWoskin during a Passover Seder dinner while Rabbi Billy Berkowitz and Beverly Jorgensen, seated, share in the celebration Thursday at the Temple B'rith Shalom in Prescott. The Jewish Passover observance began at sundown Wednesday and lasts one week.





Courier / Tom Hood

Sheila DeWoskin of Prescott displays the holiday accoutrements of the Seder, part of the Jewish celebration of Passover. Foods on the Seder plate include horseradish root, charoses, lamb shank, roasted egg, parsley and romaine lettuce.





**Rim to Rim Grand Canyon Backpack 1992 -**



Sheila Mary  
Friends



Life-long Friends Ann & Lodi



Sheila made yet another career change when she decided to become a financial planner. She took training classes and of course, she succeeded in obtaining her license. Around 1988 she worked with a friend and colleague to establish a business in Prescott, and for the next 13 years served the community as a Certified Financial Planner.

Sheila studied and became a Bat Mitzvah in 1990, the Jewish coming of age ceremony, growing ever closer to the Jewish community in Prescott. She helped to form the Havra Kadisha for the area, which is the group that performs the rituals of blessing, sitting watch with and bathing the body prior to Jewish burials. She blew the shofar, the ram's horn, each new year as part of the Rosh Hashanah service. She toured with the Temple-led group to Israel. She delighted in her participation and drew strength from her relationships at Temple Brith Shalom.

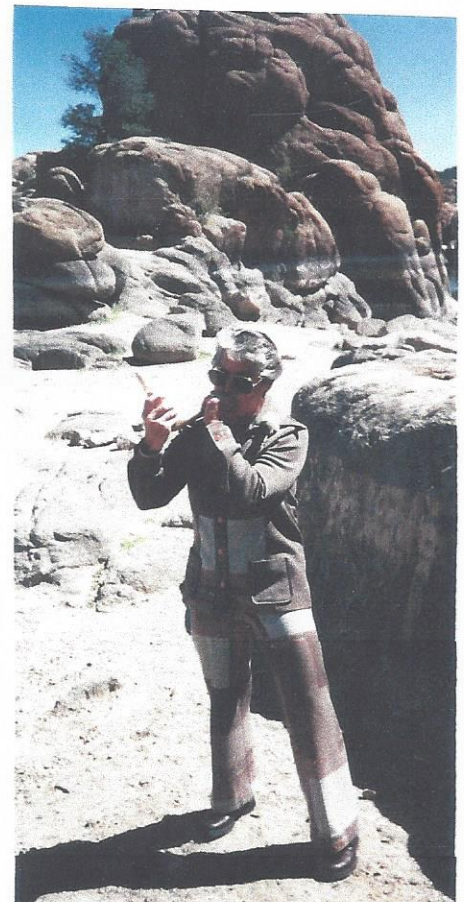


Sheila + Temple Brith Shalom Congregants



Sheila at Bat Mitzvah

-Mary



Sheila blowing the Shofar



1990 Bat Mitzvah



Sheila being Congratulated



Barbara, Sheila, Marty



Barbara Sheila



Sheila greeting relatives



Sheila with Bat Mitzvah gifts

90 10 28



Brith Shalom Friends

# The Dynamic Five!



↓  
Marilynne

↓  
Fran

↓  
Suzanne

↓  
YOU  
sheila

↓  
Nina



Sheila continued her outreach to her extended family and friends throughout her life. She was the person who could be counted on to travel out of her way to give someone a ride that needed it. She was the relative who would drive for hours to pick up a cousin she had never met but was sure she was related.

For Sheila family ties meant more than obligation, they meant true connection. Once when traveling in Russia before the fall of the Iron Curtain, Sheila left her "approved" tour to sneak to meet relatives she had only been told about. Luckily the meeting went fine and she was able to re-join her tour unnoticed.

Thus even though Sheila left her extended family in St. Louis, she remained close to her aunts, uncles, cousins throughout the years.

Gail, Mom, Sheila, Aunt Lil, Barbara



Lynn + Carol

Baba Katz, Aunt Marcella, Uncle Ben, Barb



Baby ?

Sheila with football



Aunt Annie, Barbara, Sheila



Baba Katz, Mom, Debbi

Gail



Sheila, Barbara, Mom  
Lynn





Sheila + Rozina  
Brownie



↑ Sheila, Lois, Aunt Lil, Barbara  
+ Barb, Jorge, Paula, Marty, Sheila, Lynn



Mary, Gail, Gail, Teri, Friend



Mom Sheila Aunt Annie



Marty, Barb, Sheila, Andren, Teri, Gail, Lynn, Jorge, Gigi, David



First row: Marty, Barbara, Diane, Debi, Ari, Aunt Minnie, Mom-- Second Row: Lynn, Sheila, Gigi, David-- Third row: Paula, Aunt Annie, Uncle Charlie

Top Row: Debbie Ehrlich, ?, Aunt Lil, ?, Daniel



In 1987 Sheila instigated an annual "sister's weekend" during which all 4 DeWoskin sisters would get together to improve their communication especially surrounding family matters. For the next 20 years the sisters rendezvoused over a weekend once a year, without spouses or children, and grew to understand themselves and one another better.

Gail Barbara Sheila Lynn



Sheila Barbara Gail Lynn



Sheila Lynn Barbara Gail





Sister Weekends





Sheila retired in 2003. By that time both Mary and Sheila had health difficulties. Then in 2008, Sheila lost the love of her life, Mary, who passed away at age 82. Sheila remained in Prescott with the help of family and friends until she moved to San Diego in 2010.





