

Estelle Katz

Estelle Z. Katz (nee Zoghlin) was born on January 27, 1925 in Chicago to hard-working, parents, Rose and Harry Zoghlin, emigrants from Czarist Russia. She was the second of five children, and attended the Chicago Public Schools, graduating high school at age 16. Esther was the first of her family to graduate from college—University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign (B.S., Chemistry: 1947).

Before enlisting in the Women's Army Corps during World War II, she worked in the Manhattan Project's Metallurgical Laboratory located beneath the bleachers of Stagg Field at the University of Chicago to help construct the first nuclear reactor. During the war she was stationed as a surgical technician in Texas and at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago where she cared for soldiers with spinal cord injuries. After she married her husband of 69 years, William Katz, in 1948, they moved to Madison, WI where she worked in a chemistry lab researching hormones that would a decade later be used to synthesize oral contraceptives.

While raising four children, Estelle held volunteer leadership positions in a wide range of civic and social justice causes including president of Wisconsin State Radio Listeners (WPR), chair of Milwaukee Chapter of the ACLU, and a teacher in the Freedom Schools in Milwaukee during the 1960's civil rights protests. Her passion for equity in healthcare found outlets as a legislative representative for AARP and the Wisconsin Coalition for Health, which supported a single-payer health system. As a strong believer that government can play a constructive role in our lives, she worked on many local and state-wide campaigns, volunteered with the League of Women Voters, and ran for the Nicolet school board.

In her 50's she returned to school at UW-Milwaukee to obtain a teaching certificate. Estelle taught early elementary at Auer Avenue and Cass Street MPS schools



for over 15 years. After retirement she continued her volunteer work, traveled to China, Europe and Mexico, and relished swimming and chatting with friends at the Jewish Community Center. Over the years she supported and mentored grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family, and friends.

Together Bill and Estelle enjoyed attending performances at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Skylight Theater, and the Fine Arts Quartet. They supported many community and charitable causes, including the ACLU-Wisconsin, Wisconsin Public Radio, Neve Shalom, Tikkun Ha-Ir of Milwaukee, WUWM, and the United Performing Arts Fund. She was a member of Congregation Shir Hadash.

She was predeceased by her beloved husband, William Katz, and her sisters, Bertha Dobkin and Eunice (Albert) Edgar. She is survived by her cherished children: David (Anne) Katz, Rea (Richard Bartlein) Katz, Aaron (Kate Dougherty) Katz and Diane (Phillip Bizzarri) Katz; grandchildren: Jessica (Tom Amey) Katz-Amey, Ben (Renee Szudy) Bartlein, Sol (Jenna) Katz, Becky (Carl Petrillo) Bartlein, Elia Bizzarri, Andrew (Kati) Bartlein, and Michael (Ashley Motta) Bartlein; great-grandchildren: Fiona, Gabriel, Joshua, Eden, Isaac, William and Audrey; as well as her brothers Leon (Sarisa) Zoghlin and Gilbert (Carolyn) Zoghlin along with many loving relatives and dear friends.

Estelle's family appreciates the wonderful care provided by HarborChase of Shorewood, Heartland Hospice, Sarah Chudnow Community, and — most of all — Carter Companions, who devotedly accompanied her for 13 years as she faded away into her dementia. A graveside service was held on Friday, October 5, 2018 at Mound Zion Cemetery. Please consider a memorial contributions to a charity or non-profit organization of your choice.