

# Blanche Attias Karsner

1934 - 2012



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Blanche Attias Karsner's soul finally freed itself from the bonds of her failing body and years of terrible pain and suffering to find everlasting peace with her rock and redeemer on Friday, Jan. 4, 2012, during her 78th year. A spiritual woman of strong faith and family values, she was surrounded with French lullabies, prayerful songs and the love and of her husband, David, four children, and most of her adoring 12 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Service: 1 p.m. Sunday in the Barnett Sanctuary at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, 4050 S. Hulen St., where she had been an active and faithful member for 44 years. Rabbi Andrew Bloom and Cantor Shoshana Abrams will officiate. Following committal prayers, she will be laid to rest in Ahavath Sholom Cemetery. Shiva and minyan services will be held at the residence on Sunday, beginning at 6 p.m.

Memorials: In lieu of flowers, it would be please her to have donations sent, in her memory, to the following causes, whose mission she identified with: [OrtAmerica.org](http://OrtAmerica.org) for charitable education and training; [fisherhouse.org](http://fisherhouse.org) in support of military families; [heart.org](http://heart.org) for heart disease research and cures; and [Ahavatsholom.org](http://Ahavatsholom.org), for the Synagogue Education Fund for lifelong learning. Blanche Karsner was the family matriarch, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She was a renowned chef, caterer and entrepreneur. Her cuisine, fashion and hospitality are legendary. Earlier, she had been a surgical nurse and midwife. Blanche was known for her humor, creativity, intuitive wisdom and insight; her tough, worldly, uninhibited and resilient experience; and her extraordinary loving and compassionate heart. She was always involved in civic organizations and had leading roles B'nai Brith and ORT worldwide. She was an immigrant, patriot and an "Air Force mom" for a quarter century during the Cold War and was at the center of military base social life and providing support for other military families. She was personally active for many years, and opened her home to support the resettlement of Jewish refugees and refuseniks so they could escape Soviet oppression. Blanche was fluent in at least seven languages, conversant in many more, and could switch seamlessly amongst them and the cultures they represented. She was an occasional interpreter, especially for Red Cross emergencies, like Hurricane Katrina, and whenever helpful to give a voice to immigrants to this country. Born on Sept. 11, 1934, in colonial Casablanca, Morocco, Blanche endured the occupation of the Vichy French and Nazis and witnessed General Patton and the U.S. Army come ashore there when she was 7 years old. She met the love of her life, David Karsner, at the USO, when he was stationed there in 1954. Their romance and marriage spanned many countries at a time when travel was hard, including Europe, Africa, both coasts of the USA, and many places in between. Survivors: In addition to her husband, David, Blanche is survived by her children and their spouses, Diana and Rick Levin of Fort Worth, Fred Karsner and his partner, Carolyn Foster, of Plano, Danielle

and Rusty Young of Burleson and Andy and Maria Karsner of Bethesda, Md.; grandchildren, Jason, Leah and Andrew Levin, Jennifer, Michael and Sarah Karsner, Rachel and Russell Young, and Caroline, Jenny, Julia and Hanna Karsner; great-grandchildren, thus far, Payton and Kingston; brothers and their wives, Emile Attias and his wife, Annie, of Paris, France, and Charles Attias and his wife, Chantal, of Casa Blanca, Morocco; nieces and nephews and their families; as well as numerous cousins on four continents.

Published in Star-Telegram on Jan. 6, 2013.

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**14 entries**

April 11, 2014

I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Blanche of whom I hold the dearest memories. We met in 1966 at an air force base in Grand Forks, North Dakota where we were neighbors. Her hospitality, generosity, humor and warmth from the 1st moment we met through many years beyond North Dakota made a lasting impression on us, never to be forgotten. She had the ability to make people feel at once close to her. She drew people to her and her love knew no bounds. She was a loving wife and mother and a woman of many talents and artistic abilities. I loved her immensely and will always feel her close and warm embrace. My deepest

condolences to her large and dear family and her many friends and community.

### **Laurel Paris Suess**

February 9, 2013



Fred and Karsner Family: My heart sank as I read the news of your Beautiful Mom's recent passing. Please know that I have nothing but Happiness and Warm Thoughts whenever I think of your Mom and her humor and how she touched everyone in such an Inviting way and always made you feel "Special!". I would have taking time off to be there but just found out. I tried phoning you but went into your vm. We are in Hampton, New Hampshire. Again, I'm truly very sad hering this news. My mom past in June of 2008. Thank you again for the support your family and Mom gave to my family, Send our love and prayers!!  
Much Love Perry

### **Perry Portland**

February 9, 2013

On any given day being with Blanche, she would receive dozens of calls from family and friends from Israel, France, Montreal, Morocco and across United States from the different air force based while she was stationed with the kids, people who wished to stay in touch with her and benefit from her smart and worldly warm caring touch no matter who they were from the King of Morocco to the housekeeper she uniquely touched everyone with genuine love, always beautiful food and Moroccan compassion. We will deeply miss share in your grief and will her beautiful spirit of life. The food and catering Blanche did in the Jewish community and my sons Bar Mitzvah was simply “Work of Art” that we will alway treasure in our hearts! Much love ~ David and Lori Sassoong-Prince Edward Island

**David Sassoong**

February 9, 2013

Cher David et sa famille: Mes plus sincères condoléances à la personne disparition de Blanche, un des plus généreux et affectueux que j'ai jamais jamais savoir .. Je vais rater ses biscuits et âme lumineuse, je sais bien que nous vivions dans un pays différent. Blanche alway réussi à rester en contact, n'oubliez pas d'anniversaire et voir son personatily dans chacun des enfants, Danielle, Fred, Andy et Diana C'est l'honneur et de partager memeries ensemble, elle était une belle personne et un couple merveilleux! Je vous embrasse bien serrés et prie pour vous tous pour soulager la douleur avec amour et respect. bisous à tous ~ Jean-claude Attias

**Jean-claude Attias**

January 20, 2013

Dear Dave and family,

We were deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Blanche. We know how difficult this must be for you .

Blanche was such a kind and unique women. She would do anything to help anyone in need.

We will always remember her hospitality, and her love to all of us, and how she took care of me back in 1986 as if I was one of her sons.

We were lucky to know her and share some time of our life with her. She will always stay in our heart and Haya will keep baking the best cookies on Blanche's recipes.

Blanche called me last December to wish me happy birthday. This was the last time I've talked to her.

May God bless you and your family during this time and always.

**Moshe & Haya Medina**

January 19, 2013

Dear sweet Karsner Family,

I was lucky and blessed enough to meet your wonderful mom when I was 16. That was almost 30 years ago. I was more fortunate to see Andy, Maria and the girls AND your mom and a friend last year. It had been quite a few years since I saw your mom and she was in form, we had a great 'tea party' with the girls. Your mom is such an incredible spirit, her body may not be on earth right now but her spirit is alive and well all over the place.

Anyone over the years that met your mom will never forget her. Her spirit lives on...I feel for all of you left behind to manage your grief and your dear sweet dad who will always have a soft spot in my heart...you mom had an incredible life...and thanks to her and your dad..you continue the legacy...xoxoxoMarnie

January 19, 2013

So sorry to hear. we were in Casablanca last night for 70th anniversary of 1943 conference with Churchill, FDR, etc. FDR,s grandson told many stories. do read Satloffs book about Jewish experience in Morocco during those years.

**Sylvia kaplan**

January 18, 2013

Fred,

Sorry to hear this news. May God provide you and your family with peace in the coming days.

Dan Edwards

January 18, 2013

Dear Fred and Family

I was so saddened to hear about the passing of your Mother, but what a full and blessed life she had with her family. I know she will always be looking after all of you and her spirit will live on through the love of the family. May you all be comforted with the beautiful memories of he love.

**Shelley Fine**

January 9, 2013

Dear Andy and Family,

Both Mike and I know the terrible pain you are going through with the loss of your mother. When the moments get really rough look into the faces of your children, for in their faces you will forever be reminded of your mother.

We pray and wish her peace and your family the strength to carry on with the traditions she instilled in all of you.

God Bless

**Pat and Mike Splinter**

January 7, 2013

Dear David, Diana, Fred, Danielle and Andy, please accept our sincere condolences on behalf of Chaib and myself. It saddens me deeply to know Blanche has passed. We loved Blanche as if she was family to us. I hope the memory of her love and funny wit will keep all of you comfort and to know that she is now with her Maker. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during these difficult times.

**Fatima Salih**

January 6, 2013

To Danielle and family, You are in our thoughts and prayers. Don and Sally Underwood

**Sallu Underwood**

January 6, 2013

Fred, I was saddened to hear of the loss of your beloved mother, knowing how close you two were. I can only hope that the good times and wonderful memories you had will bring you and your family comfort over the days, months and years ahead. My thoughts are with all of you over this difficult time. While I was in Fort Worth, I wish I had the honor of meeting her.

Janice Pfeiffer

**Janice Pfeiffer**

January 5, 2013

Dear David and family. We extend our heartfelt condolences and sympathy upon the passing of your beloved Blanche. May her name be for a blessing.

Joe and Hannah Klein

**Joe and Hannah Klein**

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