



Gilda Sadoff May

June 21, 1928 - November 13, 2014

Gilda Sadoff May passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 13, 2014, at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center in Easton. She was 86 years of age.

Born in Wilmington, DE, Gilda was the daughter of the late Celia and David Leshem. Her first husband, Harry Sadoff, was a well-known lawyer and public defender in Talbot County, and preceded her in death on August 30, 1994. She leaves behind her beloved second husband, Frank May, a resident in the Heartfields retirement community in Easton.

Gilda maintained a vibrant presence in Easton's music community for well over four decades, from the 1960's through the millennium. As a piano teacher, she taught generations of students whose lives were enhanced by the gift of music. A frequent performer, she held degrees in voice from the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and in piano from The Juilliard School where she studied with the most celebrated woman pianist of the era, Olga Samaroff.

Gilda May is survived by her three children, a daughter, Lisa O'Brian of Easton; two sons, Scott Sadoff and his wife Kathleen of Columbus, OH, and Ronald Sadoff and his wife Christiane Pors, of New York City; and five grandchildren, Liam O'Brian, Natasha and Esther Sadoff, and Rachel and Hayley Sadoff. Besides her parents and first husband, Gilda was preceded in

death by her sister, Doris Fine of Wilmington, DE.

A ceremony celebrating the life of Gilda Sadoff May will be held on Saturday, November 22, at 2 p.m. at The Manor House at Londonderry (700 Port Street) with Pastor Bill Glass officiating.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

celebration of life

NOV **22**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Manor House at Londonderry
Easton, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Gilda Sadoff May*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Gilda Sadoff May*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Gilda Sadoff May*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I miss my mother very much!*

Lisa O'Brien - June 19, 2017 at 06:54 PM



“ *Liam O'Brien sent a virtual gift in memory of Gilda Sadoff May*



Liam O'Brien - October 12, 2015 at 03:03 PM

PF

“ *Phil Foster lit a candle in memory of Gilda Sadoff May*



Phil Foster - December 11, 2014 at 12:04 PM

KM

“ *Gilda was very special to me. She was my mom's first friend at Heartfields. I looked after her as if she were my own. She will always have a special place in my heart! Love you Gilda! Rest in peace sweet lady. Ronald, Scotty & Lisa, may the presence of God be with you during this time!*

Kendra Marvel - November 23, 2014 at 05:44 PM

“ Dear Ronald, Scotty, and Lisa,

Your mother is one of the most wondrous people I have ever met. When I started taking lessons from her, I was seven. She was a magician when I needed one. Her fingers sparkled like hummingbird wings over the piano keys, and she gave me faith that I could learn to do that too. She taught me to wash my hands with warm water, to get the cold out, before I played. Her focus during lessons was intense, as if the rest of the world had faded away. I always left her house with a gift, whether a cookie, or a postcard, or a small brooch in the shape of the key, or a small glass turtle that now sits on my own piano, or simply the gift of feeling loved. I loved the hours that I spent at your house, and I loved being involved in something that felt so much larger than me – music, a musical life.

You were part of that life too. She always bragged about you all, and when I occasionally spent time with you on your visits home, I could see why. In a way, you were the mythical beings that gave me hope for what I could do when I grew up. Lisa, you in particular were the cool big sister I never had. I still think of spending time alone with you; of the way you purred to "Kitty-Kiam," the white cat; of our play with Hooter. I still have a pair of earrings that you gave me when I was a kid. You made me laugh until I cried. I wish I could be there with you to celebrate your mother's life and grieve her loss.

I now have two children, a boy and a girl. They both take piano lessons. This past summer, I brought them to meet Gilda at Londonderry. She was as warm and funny and endearing and amazing as she was 35 years ago. My heart is filled with gratitude.

She inspired me to follow my passions; to believe in art; to work hard and love others. I am so sad that I can't join you on Saturday. Please know how much you all meant to me, and that Mrs. Sadoff will be missed and loved forever.

Sincerely,

Catherine

Catherine Dent - November 21, 2014 at 10:10 AM

AW

“ Ron, Scott and Lisa,
I was saddened by your mother's passing. She was a friend of our family's for many years. My favorite memory of your mother was sharing her tremendous musical gift when she played at my wedding in Easton in 1981. Those who attended the wedding commented on how wonderful the music was. She was a very gifted and talented woman with a heart of gold. She will be missed!

Arlene Wilder - November 21, 2014 at 06:54 AM



“ Ron, Scott and Lisa,

I was so sorry to read of your mother's passing. Your mom touched so many lives, had a heart of gold, so talented and yet such a humble person. As a friend to the family for close to 50 years, I know we spoke and thought of her as a member of our family. You all are so blessed to have had such a wonderful mother and father as well. I can not think of enough good things to say about your mom. I am grateful to have known such a wonderful person. Please feel free to contact me through Facebook anytime.

Burt Sachs

Burt Sachs - November 21, 2014 at 06:27 AM

CW

“ Ron, Scott and Lisa,
I am sorry for your loss. Your mom was a very special lady.

Cissy Fox Weibe - November 19, 2014 at 02:42 PM

AA

“ I'm so sorry to hear about the loss of Gilda. She was a wonderful, creative, talented, and very special lady. I took piano lessons with her for 12 years, and she had a big impact on my life. My father, Lou, was also a good friend of hers. I hope to be able to join you for the celebration of her life. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Alison Allen - November 19, 2014 at 09:36 AM

LO

“ My mother Gilda Sadoff was a wonderful and beautiful lady. I am missing her very much and feel lost without her, my sweet sweet Mom. Only a mother's love could have reached that deeply into my heart like that, the last time I saw her as she kept looking into my eyes. Rest and enjoy the Peace of the Lord dear mother. Say Hi to Dad for me. You were always like sunshine! Thank you for being my mother and for all of your love, music and inner strength that you gave and taught me how to have aswel. I love you ❤️



Lisa O'Brien - November 18, 2014 at 07:04 PM

JA

“ I am so sorry to hear of her passing. She was a wonderful, vibrant and beautiful lady who always had a kind word for everyone. She left a legacy of love , appreciation and talent for music for generations to come. She will be greatly missed.

Jeanie Faulkner Aydelotte - November 18, 2014 at 06:49 PM



“ *Mrs. Sadoff taught me piano many many years ago. I enjoyed playing and learning many classical pieces in her home. I truly loved sitting down at her grand piano and letting the room fill with beautiful music. I'm sure now that music will continue on with grace and triumph. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*



Leigh Ann Toms Baray

Leigh Toms Baray - November 18, 2014 at 05:14 PM



“ *A beautiful voice, a beautiful talent, a beautiful person--Miss Gilda will be remembered with love. Our condolences to her family. You are in our prayers. The Sewells*

Cathy Sewell - November 18, 2014 at 09:53 AM