

Em

We are sad to report the death of Emily Yorshis Kessler on June 16 from Covid.

Em was the “class worrier,” but she also had a good sense of humor and a ready laugh. She was a loyal and supportive friend, helpful, gracious, and generous. She continued to communicate regularly with her friends through the years, sharing news of her children and grandchildren, to whom she was devoted.

She was passionate about the Red Sox. Every summer she and a son would visit a different city where the Red Sox were playing, to see the sights and cheer them on. She would walk from her home in Brookline to Fenway Park to see them play. She treasured her faith, keeping the important Jewish holidays with family and friends. It was fitting that two songs played at her memorial service were *Hatikvah*, the national anthem of Israel, and *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*. Collecting postcards, solving puzzles, and playing Scrabble were among the many interests she shared with others.

Em graduated from Mt. Holyoke and then received an MSW from Columbia School of Social Work in 1966. She had a successful career as a social worker with family services and trained many younger workers who stayed in touch with her and invited her to their weddings and other family events.

She was very proud of her three sons and two granddaughters. Her favorite tradition was renting a house in the summer on Cape Cod, with room for all her family. She shared her love of nature with her family, taking walks throughout the pandemic, despite the fact that her pace was slowing. Her children recall that she was a model of good parenting.

Em was also a warrior, courageously battling lymphoma and winning remission, and then struggling against *three* bouts of Covid. She remained steadfastly optimistic concerning her illness, despite setbacks.

We will both miss her kindness and her warm heart.

Marje Mazel Hecht  
Sue Slade