



Shirley Polonofsky Steelman

May 24, 1926 - May 2, 2026

Shirley Polonofsky Steelman, 99, of Sarasota, Florida passed away on May 2, 2026.

Shirley was born in Steubenville, Ohio on May 24, 1926. The daughter of Saul Polonofsky and Celia Barakat Polonofsky. Shirley grew up in her beloved Steubenville where she graduated from Steubenville High School. She was a member of the women's varsity cheerleading squad and enjoyed swing dancing during the 1940's era. Shirley went on to attend Ohio State University and later transferred to the University of Miami where she graduated and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education.

She married Rubin Steelman, predeceased, Bronx, NY, in 1948 and had two children, her son Scott Steelman, predeceased, and a daughter Suzanne Steelman. After raising her family while residing in New York, Miami and New Jersey and successfully sending them off to college, Shirley resumed her teaching career working with disabled and disadvantaged children in East Orange, New Jersey.

Shirley was an avid reader and educator who always kept up on the latest news events. She also enjoyed watching the Olympics, playing tennis and travelling with her family. Even traveling to Italy and participating in the annual Olive Harvest at the age of ninety. Shirley was the "Perfect Mom" who enjoyed

her family and took great pride in her happy marriage. She enjoyed going for walks especially when visiting with family in Boca and in downtown Sarasota. She loved gardening and especially enjoyed her four o'clock glass of wine time.

Shirley is survived by her brother, Norman Polonofsky, New York, daughter Suzanne Steelman, Sarasota, Florida, a son, Scott Steelman, predeceased, Ithaca, NY, granddaughter Alexandra Steelman, Ithaca, NY, daughter in law, Carol Chaplin, Ithaca, NY, son in law Michael Yourison, Sarasota, Florida and step granddaughter, Nikki Balles, Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

No service is planned at this time and in leu of flowers, donations can be made to your local Salvation Army.