



## Rita Schorr Germain

November 29, 2022

Rita Schorr Germain, 95, formerly of Lancaster, PA, passed away at Avon Health Center, Avon, CT, on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. Born in Boryslaw, Poland, she was the widow of Sumner Joseph Paul Germain who passed away on February 13, 2016. She was the daughter of the late Moses Schorr and Malka Grunschlag.

Rita graduated from Brown University (Pembroke College) with an A.B. degree in International Relations. She received her Master's degree from Harvard University (Radcliffe College) in Eastern and Central European Studies as well as Political Science. She also received a Master's degree in Education from Temple University. Rita took great pride in her educational history, as an interpreter and translator where she spoke Hebrew, German, and Russian, among other languages. She was a researcher, writer, teacher, historian, and independent scholar. Her research and writing placed her at the United Nations Division of Public Information and in a research fellowship at the Russian Research Center at Harvard University. She served as an instructor on the faculty at Grinnell College, York College, and Penn State University in York. She also did substitute teaching in Lancaster County.

Her professional memberships included the American Historical Association, the American Association of Advanced Slavic Studies, the American Political Science Association, and the American Association of Polish Jewish Studies.

She was also involved in the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, Past President of Hadassah, the Jewish Community Center, and Beth El Synagogue.

The themes that were important in her life included study, work, family life, music, art, and nature which filled her life with beauty, joy, and adventure. The challenge in her life was facing and dealing with the trauma of World War II, Shoah, emigration, and the evil of antisemitism in Europe and the USA. Rita was a Jewish child Holocaust survivor and experienced true heartbreak in her life. As a young Jewish girl in Poland during the Holocaust, Rita and her family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, where Rita was the sole survivor. Later in life, Rita became very active in telling her story, including to organizations across the world and schools throughout Lancaster County, where she lived for 40 years, to educate the public about the Holocaust.

She is lovingly survived by her two daughters, Emily Lucy Germain-Lee, M.D., wife of Dr. Se-Jin Lee, of Hartford, CT and Mirah Ada Becker, M.S., wife of Dr. Murray Becker of East Brunswick, NJ, three grandchildren, Benjamin, Emma, and Rachel.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the processional departing The Groffs Family Funeral Home at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 1, 2022. Graveside Services are at 11:00 a.m. at Beth El Cemetery, 295 E. Newport Road, Lititz, PA with Rabbi Shaya Sackett officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be sent to Temple Beth El, Hadassah (<https://www.hadassah.org/donate>), or the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC (<https://www.ushmm.org/support/ways-to-give/donate>).



# Cemetery Details

## Beth El Cemetery

Newport Road  
Lititz, PA

# Previous Events

## Graveside

DEC 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Beth El Cemetery  
Newport Road  
Lititz, PA

# Tribute Wall



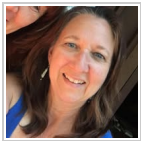
“ *Rita Schorr Germain*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *Dear Emily and Mirah, I just learned of your mother's passing. My sincere condolences to you and your families. Although I only met Rita once, I grew to know her and her life story better through Virginia Martin, her lifelong friend from Brown University. Virginia and I admired her resilience, perseverance, and determination. I will always be grateful for Rita's comforting after Virginia's passing in 2012. Now, they continue their deep philosophical discussions and friendship. May memories and love of your mother comfort you. May she rest in peace. With sympathy, Julie Story*

**Julie Story** - February 05, 2023 at 09:46 AM



“ *Sending my sympathy to you Mirah and Emily. I remember meeting your mother, I think when I came to your house on Rose Avenue. I dont know what the occasion was but what always stuck with me was her sweetness and warm welcome. The mystery has always been: how could she be so sweet and simultaneously be such a driving force behind her two daughters? I'm sure it was hard to let her go. Peace to you both. Love, Nicole (Szymanski) Belfiore*

**Nicole Belfiore** - December 08, 2022 at 07:27 PM

PA

*Dear Emily and Mirah, you may not remember me, but I remember your family living next door to us on Pleasure Road. Your mother shared her life story with my mother. I was about 6 or 7 at the time and we played together sometimes. My mother Bette Darrah shared your mother's story with me many years later. My mother always had great respect for your parents as intelligent and interesting people. Of course, your mother's survival from the terror of the Nazis was unimaginable and inspiring. We moved away to Texas and lost touch with your family. But we never forgot your mother's story and the great impression she left on our family. Peggy Darrah Adams*

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**Peggy Adams** - January 16, 2025 at 12:36 AM

MB

*“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. Your mother's story is absolutely inspiring. I always suspected but never knew the depth of her incredible accomplishments. I know her memories and impact will live on for years to come. Hugs and prayers from Melanie Newmin Butensky*

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**Melanie Butensky** - December 02, 2022 at 06:59 PM

CR

*“ Very sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She had an amazing life and raised great daughters.*

*Tracy Campbell Roeder*

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**Carolyn Tracy Roeder** - December 01, 2022 at 10:04 PM

MG

*“ Just heard about Mother's passing. Our thoughts are with you at this very difficult time. May she rest in peace.*

*Love,  
Aunt Marion, Cousins Beth and Mark*

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**marion garfinkel** - December 01, 2022 at 07:58 PM