

EULOGY FOR SHIRLEY ANN WENER

IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS IT IS WRITTEN .....

THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDER; HAS BECOME A CHIEF CORNER-STONE.

SO MANY OF US REJECT THE HANDICAPPED. WE SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN SOME WAY INCAPACITATED AND WE SEE A DISTORTED MIRROR OF OURSELVES AND OUR OWN IMPERFECTIONS - WHICH ARE ONLY BETTER HIDDEN THAN THEIRS.

WE ARE A LITTLE AFRAID OR A LITTLE IMMOBILIZED

OR A LITTLE EMBARRASSED

OR A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE

WE STRUGGLE TO FIND THE RIGHT WAY TO ACT OR THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY -

AND IN OUR DISCOMFORT AND OUR STRUGGLE, WE SEE THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENTLY

ABLED - ONLY THROUGH THE PRISM OF THEIR HANDICAPS -

INSTEAD OF SEEING A HUMAN BEING, SO MANY OF US CAN ONLY SEE THE DISABILITY.

THE HANDICAPPED BECOME - IN THE WORDS OF THE PSALMIST - THE STONE REJECTED BY THE BUILDER.

SHIRLEY ANN WENER COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THESE REJECTED STONES. INSTEAD

SHE BECAME ----- THE CORNERSTONE OF HER FAMILY. FROM THE

BEGINNING, JAKE AND MURIEL DEDICATED THEIR LIVES SO THAT SHIRLEY COULD

REACH HER FULL POTENTIAL AND LEAD A RELATIVELY NORMAL LIFE.

THEY DEDICATED THEIR LIVES, NOT ONLY TO SHIRLEY, BUT TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED - THEY CONTRIBUTED GENEROUSLY TO THE WINIFRED STUART ASSOCIATION FOR THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED - WHERE A JACOB WENER RESIDENCE ATTESTS TO THEIR GENEROSITY.

THE DEDICATION BY JACOB AND MURIEL TO THE AIM OF GIVING SHIRLEY A NORMAL LIFE AND HELPING OTHERS LIKE HER, ASSURED THAT SHE WOULD BE A CORNERSTONE, NOT ONLY IN THE LIVES OF HER PARENTS - BUT IN THE LIVES OF HER PEERS AS WELL.

HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE MANY IN HER 60 YEARS OF LIFE SPAN - EXTREMELY UNUSUAL FOR ONE WITH DOWNS SYNDROME.

SHE WAS AN EXCELLENT READER WHO ACHIEVED GRADE SEVEN IN SCHOOL AND WAS PROFFICIENT IN MATH. SHE WAS A DEDICATED AND REGULAR WORKER AT HER SCHOOL - THE WESTERN INDUSTRIAL CENTRE. SHE MADE THE MOST SPECTACULARLY BEAUTIFUL RUGS.

IN SHORT - TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE - SHE OVERCAME HER HANDICAP AND LIVED A NORMAL LIFE.

BUT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE - SHIRLEY WILL NOT BE REMEMBERED ONLY FOR HER EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

SHE IS REMEMBERED BY THOSE WHO LOVED HER FOR HER FEELINGS - HER DEEP LOVE - AND HER CARING NATURE.

NONI RECALLS THAT "DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS - SHE HELPED CARE FOR JAKE - ENJOYING THE STATUS OF BEING NEEDED WHEN SHE BECAME THE WOMAN OF THE HOUSE."

IT WOULD BE "DADDY TAKE YOUR MEDICINE" OR "DADDY WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA?"

NONI NOTICED THAT SHE BECAME BOSSY WHEN SHE TOOK OVER - YELLED PERCHANCE - A REGULAR BAST HAFUSTE .

IF SHE DIDN'T SEE HER DAD WHEN SHE CAME HOME FROM WORK - SHE WOULD IMMEDIATELY ASK "WHERE'S MY DAD?" - SURE THEY QUARRELLED A BIT - BUT THEIR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER WAS A CORNERSTONE FOR BOTH THEIR LIVES .

FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS - JUDY GOLDSAND SHOWED HER LOVE BY TAKING ON SHIRLEY'S LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP. AS SUCH SHE WAS ON CALL TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY - DEDICATING HER LIFE TO SHIRLEY .

SHIRLEY LOVED BEING WITH PEOPLE AND PLAYING THE HOSTESS AND SHE LOVED TO LAUGH .

BOB RECALLS HOW SHE WOULD WAIT IN THE LOBBY OR ON THE BALCONY TO GREET FRIENDS AND FAMILY .

NONI RECALLS HOW, WHEN SHE WOULD DRIVE UP, HER EYES WOULD AUTOMATICALLY LOOK TOWARDS THE BALCONY FOR SHIRLEY - WHO WAS WAITING - "THE LAST FEW DAYS," SHE SAID "I HAVENT SEEN HER ON THE BALCONY."

SHE WAS OFTEN STRONG WILLED - AND HAD A MIND OF HER OWN ACCORDING TO BOB "IF SHIRLEY WANTED TO LISTEN SHE WOULD ANSWER - IF SHE DIDN'T LIKE WHAT YOU WERE SAYING - SHE HUNG UP OR TUNED OUT .

WHILE SHE WAS DEPENDANT ON BOB AND NONI, WHO LOOKED AFTER HER FOR A LOT OF YEARS - SHIRLEY WAS ABLE TO GO HER OWN WAY AND LEAD HER OWN LIFE .

SHE HAD MANY INTERESTS - OUSIDE OF HER WORK AND FAMILY, SHE LOVE ALL KINDS OF MUSIC.

DOROTHY - WHO SPENT MUCH TIME AS HER CARING COMPANION RECALLS HOW SHE LOVED BOWLING AND DANCING - ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY HER SCHOOL.

SHE HAD AN AWARENESS OF HER HERITAGE - ABOUT BEING JEWISH. DOROTHY RECALLS A FRIEND TAKING HER TO CHURCH - WHEN MR. WENER BECAME ABSENT MINDED AND BEGAN TO FOLLOW THOSE HEADED FOR COMMUNION IT WAS SHIRLEY WHO REMINDED HIM "GET BACK DAD, WE'RE JEWS."

LAST NIGHT A FAMILY MEMBER - READING FROM NOTES CONCIENTIOUSLY PUT TOGETHER BY THE FAMILY - OFFERED ME THE QUOTE

"SHE WAS A MODEL FOR DOWN'S SYNDROME CHILDREN TO EMULATE."

- PERHAPS HE COULD HAVE GONE FURTHER

- IN HER LOVE FOR LIFE

- HER LOVE OF FAMILY

- HER DEDICATION TO MAKE THE BEST OF ADVERSITY

- TO ACHIEVE BEYOND HER LIMIT SHE WAS A WOMAN FOR ANYONE TO EMULATED.

SHE WAS PERHAPS ..... THE STONE REJECTED BY THE

BUILDER - BUT, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO LOVED HER, AND THROUGH

HER OWN HARD WORK, SHE BECAME .....