



Florence and Laurence Spungen Family Foundation
P.O. Box 5262 Santa Barbara CA 93150
www.spungenfoundation.org

Florence Laurence Carol Debbi Danny Glenn

Honoring And In Memory of Florence Beatrice Spungen
March 20, 1928 – January 6, 2012

The short version (if that is even possible given her incredible adventures in life)!!

It was Florence Spungen's idea to start a foundation that would focus on the areas of health and Judaism. Diagnosed with both ovarian cancer and lymphoma in 2005, she envisioned trying to make a difference in the prevention and treatment of cancer and other health related issues. Florence was raised in a deeply rooted religious Jewish family from Staten Island, New York, where her passion for Jewish causes was nurtured and always close to the surface.

Florence, who described herself as being "obedient" as a child, always knew the importance of education. She received her bachelor's degree in Sociology (June 1949) and master's degree in Education (June 1951) from Hunter College in New York. This accomplishment required taking a bus, ferry, and 3 trains to attend school each day. While taking courses toward her Ph.D in Administration and Supervision at Rutgers University, she met Larry Spungen and moved to Chicago to raise her family.

Florence's fiscal expertise was demonstrated in her ongoing zealousness for investments, including organizing and developing numerous investment clubs. She continued to be actively involved in her personal financial endeavors as well as the financial management of the Foundation up until her death.

It was often said that after a very short encounter, Florence would know more about one's background than their own longtime friends! According to Florence, it was dangerous to sit next to her at a dinner or luncheon. By the time you stood up, you were involved in either a stock or book club, maybe joined an "Adventures" club or became involved in a boggle or bridge group.

The number of people who were there to support Florence throughout her illness and her entire life was enormous and humbling to her family. A day never went by in 2011 without someone calling her home or any family member to stress how much they loved Florence and mention the impact she had on them!

May her memory be a blessing. She will be missed.



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A bit more, on the lighter side of Flo!!!

OK, no doubt that Flo wanted to make a difference when she started the Foundation. But at the same time one must know that Flo told her children long ago that money had to be earned and she was not going to simply hand it over!! One of several legendary beliefs of Flo in family folklore was that money had to be properly invested and never wasted!!! The fact that her children “crossed the line” and purchased “new” furniture rather than hunt at estate/house sales really was a sacrilegious act that would never be forgotten!

The value of money was a primary trait Flo lived by. When Flo was diagnosed in 2005 with ovarian cancer her instinct was to establish a Foundation to make a difference for future generations. Flo wanted to stress the importance of investing wisely for the long term and using the profits to benefit causes she believed in.

Family and friends enjoyed teasing Flo about her strong beliefs on financial, political and cultural issues. The fact that some of her offspring (and her own siblings) did not follow her political beliefs only intensified her need to protect herself using the Foundation as one of her tools.

As frugal, economical and savvy Flo was with money, there was never an issue on how much money was required for educational purposes. Education was critical and “priceless.” Flo (and Larry) worked tirelessly on making sure their children made every effort to graduate from college even if she had to “assist” in class work! This trait has transitioned nicely to the next generation already!

Education included travel and Flo encouraged her children to explore the world. There are very few places in the world her children combined have not conquered. In fact, her passion for travel led her to teach classes titled, “How to pack a suitcase” in the 1970’s.

One humorous miscalculation Flo made was taking Larry and some friends to Africa without allocating time for golf, yet exposing the group to brutally bumping safari treks and risky white water rafting. The result was that future trips had to be solo; her trip to the Antarctica being such an example.

In 2007 in the midst of chemotherapy treatments, Flo, unable to risk international travel encouraged and funded (in memory of her brother Al) a trip to the Galapagos Islands that the families of Carol, Debbi and Danny went on together.



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The final exception to traveling solo was in 2009 when, with some encouraging news from her doctors, she planned a trip to Australia with her husband, Larry, and her daughter, Carol, and her husband, Aaron. The trip got off to a great start but ended suddenly when she ended up with pneumonia in a hospital in Alice Springs. Instead of being able to go on a tour of the Sydney Opera House, she was only able to drive by it accompanied by the medic who helped her return to the USA!

Back on the home front Flo's educational weapon of choice was the word game "Boggle." All 3 generations of Spungens are well entrenched playing Boggle...some playing much better than others! The dictionary became the offensive tool for those "challenged" in the ability to find common words! Even with the dictionary, Flo was hard to beat...but at times they did discover some seldom used words!!! Flo's proudest Boggle moments came in recent years when her grandchildren started to beat her on a regular basis!

Flo loved Boggle so much that she had many Boggle parties and would often give the game away as gifts to visiting guests or Rotary foreign exchange students. The gifting of the game was also a great reason to go hunting for them at house sales!!!

To end this tribute to Flo, we must all reflect on her ultimate passion in playing the stock market. One can assume that Flo found more excitement in stocks than her previous ventures in breeding fish, selling Caesar bicycle tires, publishing books on geology for her brother, or stints at the horse track (yes, all are true)! Her children dreaded the day at the races when she promised to make carrot cake if "Carrot Cake" would win. At that time everyone hated carrot cake and assumed the horse lost given she stopped going to the track and instead baked mandel bread for as long as one can recall up to the last few months in her life!!!

Flo was addicted to WBBM 780 stock market reports, Channel 26 (days before cable TV) and calling into her investment houses multiple times a day!!! She tracked stocks on paper as if the stock symbols were a form of poetry or musical scores! Her love to engage her friends and strangers (who later became close friends) in a conversation about stocks is beyond legendary! While Flo's body was overcome with cancer, her mind continued to be incredibly alert. Some of her last calls were to her brokerage firm Investments to make sure her options were covered both personally and for the family foundation.



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As many friends told Flo the past several months...."Flo, hang in there, we can't have you leave us in a down market!!!!" Well, folklore will have it that Flo did hang in to weather the economic turmoil through 2011 and then wished us good luck as she turned over the reins to all of us to reflect on her knowledge and invest wisely into the future.

Pages of stories and tidbits can be written about Flo but it's time to stop and let the Foundation speak on her behalf. The family is committed to making the foundation she created strong for the next generations to carry on her legacy.

Larry, Carol, Debbi, Danny and Glenn once again thank each and every person Flo touched!

