

## SARAH FRIEDMAN – 1917-2005



Sarah (Stein) Friedman was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1917. Her parents, Abraham and Annie Stein, had immigrated separately to the United States as young adults from areas in Eastern Europe that are now part of Ukraine. Ultimately, Abe and Annie each arrived in Hattiesburg where they met, married, and ultimately owned and operated a clothing store. Sarah's brother, Melvin, was born in 1920.

Sarah was 13 years old when the family moved to Mobile in 1931. This was at the depths of the Great Depression, and Abe Stein saw greater economic opportunity in Mobile than in Hattiesburg. Abe and Annie opened a clothing store on Dauphin Street just west of Bienville Square and soon established a successful business there.



Sarah graduated from Murphy High School in 1935. She then attended The University of Alabama for two years before returning to Mobile in the late 1930s.



Meanwhile, Aaron Friedman had been working at a store in Baltimore that was owned by a brother and sister of Annie Stein (Sarah's mother). When that store was heavily damaged by a fire, Aaron came to Mobile in June 1938 to work for the Steins. Within a few months, Aaron and Sarah were engaged. They were married in 1939 and had four sons: Murray, (1940-2018), Leonard (b. 1943), S. William (b. 1947), and Jere (b. 1954).

For the remainder of her life, Sarah was a loving and dedicated wife, homemaker, and mother to her four sons. She also was active and took leadership roles in local organizations, including the Mobile chapter of Hadassah and the Sisterhood of the family's synagogue, Congregation Ahavas Chesed. She also managed the synagogue's gift shop for many years.



Sarah always kept in touch with family and friends near and far. She was a wonderful cook and baker. Indeed, one of the greatest pleasures in life was opening a package and discovering a tin full of her unsurpassed "mandelbread" that was baked with love from a recipe handed down from her own mother and grandmother.

Sarah was delighted when Aaron Friedman became interested in building miniature houses after he sold The Fair Store in the late 1970s because it gave him lots to think about and do in retirement. Although she stayed in the background and let Aaron "take the spotlight" with the miniature house projects, Sarah was instrumental

in the process with her support, feedback, and suggestions along the way. She also provided invaluable assistance with the painstaking details of finishing and furnishing the interior of each house by helping to decide on paint colors, finding matching wallpapers, shopping for miniature furniture, creating needlepoint rugs, pillows, and wall hangings, and hand making many of the drapes, towels, and other tiny accessories found throughout each house. Working together, Sarah and Aaron made each house into a home. In addition, Sarah and Aaron were founding members of the Mobile Miniature Club.



**Portrait of Sarah Friedman circa 1960 by Mobile artist Carleton W. Furbush. Photo by Yesenia Quezada-Friedman**

Sarah Friedman was 87 years old when she died in 2005. She is remembered by those who knew her for the way that she taught her family always to treat others with respect and dignity and always to do the right thing, even when that was not always the easy thing to do. She set an example for everyone who knew her with her endless love for life, fun, and adventure, her boundless hospitality and generosity, and her caring, compassion, and sensitivity for others.



**Sarah Friedman in 2003 with (from left to right) Leonard, S. William (Bill), Murray, and Jere Friedman.**

*Sarah's sons and daughters-in-law lovingly composed this biography. All photos courtesy of the Friedman family. © 2020 Jere Friedman*