



Victoria Shamlian

January 4, 1931 - July 10, 2020

Victoria Shamlian, 89, of St. Augustine, passed away on July 10, 2020. She left the embrace of her daughter and rose into the arms of Jesus. Best described as funny, feisty, full of gumption, a woman of strong convictions, Victoria was a big-hearted woman who enjoyed an enriched life. Laughter, a well-told story, and sparkly shoes gave her great pleasure.

She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, January 1931 and was a first-generation American born child of Armenian genocide survivors. They loved Brooklyn, but during her childhood her family spent glorious summers on a New Jersey farm. She kept fond memories of her childhood her whole life. As she grew, she accompanied her father on Saturdays when he did street corner evangelism. As a teenager, she took voice lessons from a teacher with a studio in the Carnegie Hall rehearsal building. She was raised in a home passionate about music and raised her own children that same way.

Victoria married Oscar Shamlian, another first-generation American in 1950. They had two children; Linda and William, and lived in The Bronx, New York. She infused in her children the love of God and the arts, the value of friendship, and good laughter. When opportunity arose, the family left New York City and moved to Victoria's dream house on Lake Carmel, NY.

In the 1990's Victoria and Oscar retired to Florida. They met a new circle of

friends and immersed themselves in St Augustine life. She acquired her beloved cockatiel, Lemon, who is now 22 years old.

Victoria was an artist through piano, bells, her voice, choir directing, knitting, sewing, and theater. She even had a little business called Vicki's Knits. She celebrated the creativity and multitalented gifts of her whole family. She wrote, directed, and costumed plays with Biblical themes. She wrote and performed a one-woman tribute to Holocaust survivor Corrie ten Boom. She also volunteered at St Augustine's Limelight Theatre (1995-2004) under the founders, Jean Rahner and Anne Kraft. She was a founding member and treasurer of the Limelight Theatre Guild Board of Directors 1998-2000. She loved the times she spent as part of the shared live theatre experiences.

Victoria's love of Jesus was clear and her desire to serve Him was lived out daily. She fervently believed in the power of prayer. She worked for TBN Trinity Broadcasting Network for 33 years, both in New York and Jacksonville, as the Prayer Partner Coordinator and a frequent television talk show guest.

Victoria served on church boards, volunteered at food pantries, was a youth leader, Bible teacher, and a student at the Moody Bible Institute. While in St Augustine she helped start and subsequently run Living Waters Prayer Ministry, a telephone call in help line for sharing spiritual guidance. She became a licensed minister at the age of 74. Pastor Vicki performed weddings and would lead memorial services aboard navy vessels during her husband's U.S. Navy reunions. She had no desire to start her own church, but to be a helper in the greater community. Her two favorite Bible verses were Psalm 119:71 and Psalm 119:33.

Victoria is survived by her daughter, Linda Shamlan; son, William and daughter-in-love Joy Cochran; niece, Susan Samuelian; nephew, David Shamlan and his wife Heidi, their daughter Danielle Shamlan; son, Steven

Shamlian and his wife Tahleen and their little boys Shahan and Aren. Victoria reaped the blessings of a long life. She was especially delighted to be great-great Auntie Vicki to Shahan and Aren. Victoria was predeceased by her husband Oscar Shamlian to whom she was married from 1950-2005; her brother and sister-in-law, Albert and Zevart Samuelian; nephew, Daniel Samuelian; and parents Arshavir and Repega (Lafjian) Samuelian.

A memorial service will be planned for a later date due to the riskiness of our COVID-19 times. To pay tribute to Victoria's memory, consider making a donation in her name to:

St Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum
81 Lighthouse Avenue
St Augustine, FL 32080
www.staugustinelighthouse.com/donate

Or:

Armenian Museum of America
65 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

St. Johns Family Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Vicki and her husband Oscar were friends of ours and prayer partners since our visit to their home in Lake Carmel, NY. Since meeting them we felt their love for life, love for the Lord, love for missions. We kept in touch by mail all these years, and now say good bye to a wonderful friend. Our love to Linda and Bill. We want to stay in touch.

*Samuel and Martha Berberian
missionaries in Guatemala*

Martha Berberian - September 02, 2020 at 10:20 PM

JG

“ Dear Linda, Bill and Joy,

"Do not grieve for me For now I am free

I am following the way God laid for me

I took His hand when I heard Him call

I followed Him and left it all

Do not grieve for me , For now I am free"

*Vicki was one of the strongest more determined women I know.
I shall miss her advice and our talks ..*

*Deepest condolences
Janette Gregorian*



Janette Gregorian - August 07, 2020 at 07:05 PM

RA

“ Linda, I am so sorry for your loss... Your Mom was an amazing person! She was funny kind and loving person. I can remember the very first time we met, her corky personality and mine just seem to meld together. she always had funny stories to tell and unbelievable details to them that always made me smile! I will truly miss her. Love to you all.. Robin Amato

Robin Amato - August 06, 2020 at 01:08 PM

SH

“ A lifetime of preparation is finally reaping its reward. Hope you are in the loving arms of your savior. Give a hug to my parents. You will be missed.

Sherry - July 27, 2020 at 10:52 AM

CS

“ C. Snowden lit a candle in memory of Victoria Shamlian



C. Snowden - July 26, 2020 at 03:28 PM

CS

This beautiful soul dedicated her life to prayer and support to the Trinity Broadcasting Network...in Florida Vicki drove her over 95 miles round-trip for years! Thanking God for her and her gentle husband and precious children.

C. Snowden - July 26, 2020 at 03:31 PM

KM

“ Aloha Vicki. You are missed. Kim Murphy

Kim Murphy - July 26, 2020 at 12:55 AM

LS

“ My mother. My friend. My mayrig. Everywhere I look, your absence is apparent. I’m a little lost at sea without your daily words of love & encouragement, as are Bill & Joy in Boston.
Your love lives on in us.
It was my honor & privilege to be your caregiver 24/7 during your year of suffering with that rare skin disease. I promised to keep you home, and I kept my promise.
I am happy that your beloved cockatiel, Lemon, was on your shoulder, guarding you, while you peacefully left us as I embraced you.
I know you are whole and making a joyful noise.
You are absent from your body & present with the Lord.
“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”
Rev 14:13.
xox Linda

Linda Shamlian - July 26, 2020 at 12:32 AM

AK

So many beautiful memories of Vicki's time with us at the Limelight...she was a light of her own. So much love...always more to share. Find peace and rest now, dear Vicki.

Anne Kraft - July 27, 2020 at 05:18 PM

JB

Vicki was a truly wonderful person. She was so kind and generous. She also had a great sense of humor and always made me laugh. My day always felt brighter after talking with her. I will always remember her with great joy.

Janice Beach - July 28, 2020 at 05:09 PM

SE

Auntie Vickie, We love and miss you! You were always so upbeat and funny, gentle and kind, loving and warm. We will continue to celebrate you and remember you for all your awesomeness! Linda and Billy are living proof of the amazing mother you were and your light will continue to shine through them!

Seta - August 14, 2020 at 09:20 AM