



Sheila Barkat

February 17, 1929 - March 26, 2020

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Attempting to smuggle a large paring knife onto a flight from Pakistan to India she was quickly surrounded by armed guards with machine guns. It was, she argued forcibly, necessary to cut the guava she was traveling with. The guards, perplexed and perhaps a bit amused, relented and let her carry it on the plane. Born in 1929 in Punjab, India, Sheila Barkat was a woman with backbone and priorities; she was never one to let the possibility of imprisonment come between her and any fresh fruit be it oranges or mangos. Despite being a registered nurse and a woman of deep faith, her vices extended beyond fruit to all manner of desserts from American cherry pie to Indian jalebi.

In 1959 Sheila came to the U.S. to live in Tennessee. Before settling in Knoxville she arrived in Chattanooga, where she was received with a police-escorted parade in her honor by students and faculty of Tennessee Temple University, which appropriately closed the school so that students could welcome her at the airport. When asked what she thought of the reception she expressed that she was mildly disappointed, as she had hoped the crowds meant that Elvis was nearby. Subsequently, she moved to Briarcliff Manor and then Yorktown Heights, NY where she raised two sons. But her priority during the last two decades focused on her 5 grandchildren, who she quite correctly

recognized were above average in every way. In later years she split time between New York and Florida, which worked for her because she loved to travel whether local or international.

Sheila had the rare privilege of being married to her best friend and travel partner, whom she often teased were a couple whose love story would be told for generations. Teasing was a gift as she was ever the wit, always with a twinkle in her eye and quick to laugh. This was matched only by her generous and selfless spirit and unconditional acceptance of those whose path crossed hers in life. Elegant and fashionable, she looked decades below her age, and for years she refused to reveal the secret to her youth and beauty. However a few days after her 91st birthday she shared her secret; she was deeply loved, and she loved deeply.

She was laid to rest at Dale Cemetery in Ossining, NY on June 18th, 2020. A memorial service and celebration of her life for family and friends will be held on November 20, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., at Ridgeway Alliance Church in White Plains, NY and will also be live-streamed at www.ridgewaychurch.com.

Reflections and recollections can be shared at:

<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com/obituaries/Sheila-Barkat/>

Tribute Wall

JO

“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Service



John607B - November 13, 2021 at 10:24 AM

BR

“ *I thought of you today as I ate my Indian cuisine. Doesn't compare to the place I shared my first Indian meal with you and Dr. Barkat. The company wasn't as special either. I am forever grateful for how you lovingly and genuinely accepted me into your life when I became Sam's assistant at Wycliffe. You are loved and missed dearly. Keep smiling down on us. - Bridgette*

Bridgette - September 09, 2021 at 06:40 PM

KC

“ *When I think of Sheila, a couple of things come to my mind. Her beautiful smile, which brightens the whole room. Always well trimmed, long red finger nails. Well color coordinated outfits. Her sense of humor which made me laugh. And most of all her kind heart!*

Our friendship began when I met Sheila at a continuing education class right after I came to the United States. She taught me much about American culture and traditions. With her great cooking, I fell in love with Pakistani food. We enjoyed planting flowers together in her front yard many springs and buying hanging baskets for her front walkway. My husband Bill and I really appreciated Dr. Barkat and Sheila's advice and support for our son Jonathan. Our family will cherish many memories of going out to Indian restaurants for many special milestones. We were always so amazed how energetic they are that they drove down to Orlando every winter and up in spring for the last 10 years or so. And flew to Orlando many times a year. And they were always together. We will remember Dr. Barkat and Sheila's support and love for each other. Thanks for setting a great example for us! I will also cherish the memories of special tea every time when I visit them the last couple of years. Dr. Barkat's proper table setting, great conversations, and I always felt Sheila's kind heart!

We will miss you Sheila. You will be in our hearts!

Kisook, Bill and Jonathan Chung

Kisook Chung - September 06, 2020 at 07:19 PM

FW

“ We mourn the loss of our Auntie Sheila (Mami-jee). She was one of the pioneer women in our family. She always made sure that you were well taken care of and was known for her hospitality. Anyone coming and going to Pakistan always stopped at the Barkat's. She cherished not only her own children, but all children in the family. The times we spent together will always be special. She was always very fashionable with her pretty saris and nice jewelry. We will miss her presence at all future family gatherings and will honor her with all the fond memories we have.

Fouzia - When I first came to the United States, she was the one who showed me how to use the dishwasher properly. She also gave me cooking lessons in her kitchen and how to grocery shop in the US. To this day, the stuffing that I make for Thanksgiving each year is from a recipe she taught me! I learned how to properly set the table for family gatherings from her as well. She was there for me when I first went to college in the US and was there for me when I got married too. She showed her generosity when my children were born and came for a special visit. I will miss her dearly.

With our deepest sympathy - David, Fouzia, Shazia, and Zavier Waggoner



Fouzia Waggoner - June 18, 2020 at 10:26 AM

FW

“ 10 files added to the album *Memories of Aunt Sheila*



Fouzia Waggoner - June 18, 2020 at 10:05 AM

DF

“ *Din, Khokhar, Waggoner Families purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sheila Barkat.*



Din, Khokhar, Waggoner Families - June 18, 2020 at 09:49 AM

MK

“ *Our Dearly Beloved Barkat Family:*

Mumtaz and myself along with our nephew Khurram Gill from England, visited with Dr. Barkat and Sister Sheila on January 19, this year. All of us had a very pleasant visit with the Barkats during that afternoon. True to herself she wanted to serve us a lunch, as she had always done serving us various meals and tea according to the times of the meals in a given day of our visits. Her talent of loving hospitality and the charm, no one can forget, especially us as we had her not just as our trusted friend but more than that as our older sister, who we addressed as our sister-in-law. (Bhabhi Jee) To know someone very closely for 40 years, is not a mean time. It was an immense blessing for both Taj and myself.. No one can be like her, if one does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, as did our Beloved Bhabhi Jee. Celebrating birthdays, enjoying holidays and weddings were her forte, guiding and instructing how to perform whatever rituals fitting a said occasions were.

Our late beloved Bhabhi Jee was a Believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, He is coming back sooner than we all think and He will raise her out of her grave where she is sleeping now peacefully and with the sound of the trumpet joyfully announce to her, meet your Sam, John, Jim their beloved spouses and all of your grand children, your extended families and friends. Let us all Praise the Lord Jesus Christ. ALLELUIA1

Mehbub and Mumtaz Khan - June 10, 2020 at 10:04 PM

“ _____ _In memory of our Aunty Sheila._____

It is so hard to believe that we will not be able to see or talk to Aunty Sheila any more. Sam and Sheila have always been a big part of our lives. Every time they came to Chattanooga (which was at least 2-3 times a year) they always stopped by to visit us. Their visit was always lot of fun as well as educational. Aunty Sheila was always ready to share wisdom and experience with my wife (Dorothy) and me. She would tell me " Anoose you are working too hard take few days off and stay home". She would share some excellent cooking tips with my wife, and some of her best recipes with us. She would never hesitate in sharing some words of advice in the realm of human relationships and the art of raising children. My wife and I always loved and respected her candid and to the point conversations. It was sixties and early seventies , and Chattanooga, and Atlanta had no place where you could buy Indian or Pakistani food items. When Aunty Sheila found that out, she started sending us some bottles of pickles and few spices through mail. We could not thank her enough, for her spirit of caring, and her love and generosity. Aunty Sheila it goes without saying, that we love you and miss you so much. There is a big void that your absence has created in our lives, and it is never going to be filled. We love you. Anoose and Dorothy Taj.

A Prayer.

Aye khudawand apne bandon ki aaj sunn lay duaa

Hum preshaan hain afsoorda hain dilgeer Khudaa.

1- Dar par tere hum aye hain tootey dil ley kar.

Rahm-o-karam ki apne tu aaj hum pay barish kar

Bakhash dey tu hamari her ek taqseer Khudaa.

2- Kya bataayen aaj apni be basi ki yeh haallat.

Dilzada-o-gham zada ghamgeen hum hain aye maalik.

Jaise seeney mein gadee ho koi shamsheer Khudaa.

3- Kaun jaaney kaun apna kab kiss waqat judaa ho jaaye,

Aaj mauqaa hai apnaaley sub ko gaya waqat kub haath aaye

Taj ney dil par chot woh khayee ban gyaa hai dukh ki tasveer

Khudaa.

By : Anoose Taj

Anoose Taj - May 31, 2020 at 01:06 PM

AG

“ *Aunty always was welcoming and kind to everyone. Aunty was a good friend to my parents and we met her on many social occasions and family visits. I remember when Aunty and Uncle took a trip to join my parents for our wedding in Ecuador. Aunty did not know the language but through her enthusiasm and joy she was happy throughout the trip, which included visiting random restaurants while on walks and some plane/airport adventures. I will always remember Aunty as a positive and joyful person.*

Aneel Gill - May 29, 2020 at 11:01 PM

NM

“ *I’m entering this list recalling Sheila’s wonderful life and relationships a little late, but I’m happy to be able to read the many memorials from Sheila’s family and friends as they stretch my picture of her, make me feel more fully, not only her generosity, warmth, and hospitality (they are givens), but her travels, her sophistication and cosmopolitan spirit as well. All of this, we know, was dedicated to the mutual mission she shared with her life-long partner, Sam, not only their God-blessed work around the country and the world, but in bringing up two remarkable sons along with the shared joys of grandchildren. As I, and a few others with whom I most closely hold memories of Sheila, wait for her to come back to us at Community Bible Church in Westchester County, where Sheila and Sam also served, we think fondly of the times we spent with her and Sam, and wish we had had a little more of their busy lives. Being with Sheila, was always to find someone loving, open, and welcoming. There was an unfailing smile in her eyes. With love,
Nancy McClure*

Nancy McClure - May 29, 2020 at 07:47 AM

AQ

“ I remember like it was today, when Sam would invite me to the apartment and I would find Sheila, either sitting on the couch left to the living room or standing by the table next to the kitchen. The first thing she would do, was to offer me a cup of tea and a tender hug. It was at her apartment where many times I found refuge and shed many tears. Her love and kindness made the perfect environment every time for us to have meaningful conversations. Though Sam and I did most of the talking :) she had a way of listening and contributing in a wise way with just a few words. She also found this unique way to make us laugh. And that was her, she brought joy to those who were going through difficult moments and used her natural God given talent, her timely sense of humor to give hope. She was unique and special to us in every sense of the word.

Sheila, thank you for allowing me and Cristina to enjoy a few years of your life. We will live to remember you and honor your legacy by bringing joy to everyone we cross path with. Simply, thank you for making us laugh.

Sam, thank you for introducing us to your best friend and teaching us how to honor and love a wife. We will always remember how much you love her. Our prayers are with you, John and Jim and the entire family. I ask for God to comfort you in this unimaginable grieving moment.

With much love,

Agustin & Cristina Quiles

Agustin & Cristina Quiles - May 28, 2020 at 09:24 AM

BM

“ Dear Family,

I am blessed and deeply grateful for the ways Sheila Barkat modeled beauty, faithfulness to God, love for her family and care for others with humility, dignity, humor and strength. As a young woman in ministry, on staff with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and the mother of two small children, Sheila would often scoop them up in her arms and love on them like only a grandmother could. They are now young adults and I am eternally grateful for the investment she made in the life of my family and me. She will forever be “Mama Sheila” to us!

We honor her life and legacy with you. Holding you in our heart and prayers,

~Brenda Salter McNeil & Family



Brenda Salter McNeil - May 23, 2020 at 08:27 PM

CR

“ Sam Barkat has been a beloved friend, colleague, and mentor for over two decades. For the first few years I didn't meet Sheila. But when I met her I suddenly realized how much greater Sam was because of Sheila and her greatness. And from then on, I cannot think of Sam without thinking of Sheila and the deep love and mutual respect that was so evident between them. Sheila was a gifted "heart person" and what a warm and wise heart! Whenever I was with her, I personally felt her warmth and affection and wisdom. Sam and I have been involved in many projects together. And I have asked Sam to do many things over the years - too many things! One time I asked Sam if he could do something, and he was a bit reluctant. A few days later Sam called me. He said, "I talked to Sheila about it. She said that anything Chris asks me to do, I must do it!" And he did it. My prayers are with Sam and the entire family as you move through the journey of grief and gratitude regarding your dear wife, mother, grandmother, and inspiration to so many. Sheila lived a life of hope and joy. As we are now in the time of the Ascension of Christ, I pray that the hope of the resurrection of the body is ever more tto you.

Chris Rice - May 22, 2020 at 07:32 AM

SN

“ I got to meet Sheila when I was working with Sam as InterVarsity's Black Campus Ministries Director in the late 80s/early 90s. I vividly remember her warm smile whenever I would walk into their home. Sheila was unfailingly gracious, kind, and calm. Her wisdom and sense of humor would come through when she would make some pithy (short but full of meaning) comments to me.

She was clearly Sam's solid rock and soulmate, and God's faithful daughter, and while I'm truly sorry she is gone, I'm certain God said to her "well done, Sheila. I mean, you put up with Sam all those years!" :-) (A little humor back to you, Sheila!)

Sam, Jim, John, my condolences to you all. You have been and will remain in my prayers as you go on strongly with your lives. Peace to you, my brothers.

Sheldon Nix

Sheldon Nix - May 17, 2020 at 08:59 AM

GU

“ *Phupo Sheila was more than our phupo, she was our dear friend. You could talk about so many things with her. Whenever she came to visit, it was like a family reunion. We had so many parties and everybody loved to sit and talk with her and invite them to their home. We prayed together, sang songs of praise and worship, and shared many stories with each other. It's hard to imagine being without her for now, but we can not wait to see her heaven. I know she is very happy to see my mother, Dora, who was very good friends with her, as well as all the other friends and family. I know they are having lots of fun up there.*

Aalia Gill, Rashid Gill, Solomon Gill, and Sadiq Jalal.

Gugal - May 13, 2020 at 09:59 PM

OZ

Olive

*I still remember since my childhood when I was flower girl on Her Wedding and later very much associated to her
I am standing now on the seashore
A ship sails to the morning breeze and starts for the Ocean
She (phupho) is an object and I stand watching her till at last she fades from the horizon
"She is Gone" Gone where?
Gone from my sight, that is all
She is just as large in the
Masts, hull and spars
as she was and when I saw her and just as able to bear her load of living freight to its destination
The diminished size and total loss of sight is in me, not in her*

Olive Zahur - May 26, 2020 at 01:43 PM

GP

“ We grieve, but not as those who have no hope. I am getting closer to feeling like I may begin to understand the loss of a spouse of such a long marriage. And being married to Sam at that! :)
I do know that God's grace is a very powerful thing — the most effective practical and heart sustaining powers in the universe.
May God grace and mercy be showered on the whole extended family each day.

*Greg Parsons
Pasadena California*

Greg Parsons - May 11, 2020 at 02:40 PM

KA

“ We have just heard from our dear friends Phil and Julie that Sheila has passed away to be with the LORD. We would like to express to you and the whole family our warmest condolences. We still vividly remember your visit to Lebanon with Sheila and we have such treasured memory of that time together. Her smile never left her beautiful face!

Our hope is in the Risen Christ and his promise that we will live with him and with our beloved ones on the new earth.

May the LORD engulf you with his peace at this difficult time!

SALAM from Lebanon!

Riad and Izdihar Kassis

Kassis - May 11, 2020 at 04:16 AM

AC

“ It was with sad and heartfelt pain that we as Chrispals received the news of our dear Bhabhiji's Home Calling. We had followed the news of her failing health and upheld her and Badebhaiya in our fervent prayers. Bhabhiji and Badebhaiya are very dear to us. They came into our lives as God sent angels. We developed close affinity to them as a family just with our first meeting at Overseas Council. She was amazing sister, with wit, humor, adventurous and above all gracious and lovingly kind. They both became my daughter's local parents while she studied at Nyak College for her Masters. Without them it would have been impossible. I had traveled with them in various places and to experience her resilience was an experience in itself. It is big loss to Badebhaiya and the immediate family but also to us whom she with Sam embraced us to be the part of family. May the Lord grant everyone His Shalom, Grace and surround all of us with His Love and Hope. Thank you Bhabhiji for your exemplary life in Christ. Thank you Lord for giving us Sheila Bhabhiji as instrument of your love and grace.

Ashish Chrispal - May 06, 2020 at 07:53 PM

HK

“ I have a lot of fond memories of our beloved Mami ji. I will try to summarize them here..I see Mami ji as a mother, a role model for all the mothers in the family and loyal and dedicated wife that will do whatever it takes to keep up with the commitment of marriage every day. I look up to her and want to be like her in my commitment to my life partner. I have had great times in her company, we sang together, cooked and had heart to heart conversations. She listened to me like a mother and always gave me good advice. She encouraged me to pursue my goals and go back to school to my masters and celebrated my success as mother would do for her daughter. She had a very pleasant personality and everyone treated her as a queen wherever she went. I want to grow up to be like her, to have a presence like she had. She has left us to be at a better place, but she will always be in our hearts and minds. We love you and miss you so much. “You are altogether beautiful, my darling, beautiful in every way.”
Song of Solomon 4:7

-Humera



Humera Khokhar - May 06, 2020 at 04:34 PM

HJ

“ We are devastated to hear about the loss of our beloved Phupo Sheila. It is comforting to know that she is now resting peacefully with Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our life here on earth is short, but our life in Christ is eternal and everlasting. That small constant reminder will hopefully help us get through this tough time. It shall allow us to not be somber over the loss of our loved one, but to celebrate her life and carry on her memory.

"I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. - John 10: 28-30

With Love,

Haroon Jalal, Rukhsana Jalal and family.

Haroon Jalal - May 06, 2020 at 04:51 AM

OC

“ I had the great honor of serving on the Multiethnic Ministry Team under Dr. Sam Barkat's leadership with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship in the early 2000's. It was always so much fun when Sheila joined us during our meetings for meals or outings. One of my greatest memories of all time was when Sam took our at a team to play laser tag.

My first thought was "this is gonna be fun". My second thought was: "its too bad Sheila won't be joining us". But no, when we got in to get our laser vests on, I turned my head down to snap my vest in place and when I turned around Sheila had already had her vest on with the lights flickering and her laser gun already pointed at us and she was roaring to go with a huge and ominous smile on her face. It was shocking and hilarious and beautiful all at the same time. Thats when I realized I really didn't know Sheila. I was prejudging her actions based on what I knew my mother would have done...or not done in this case because she would have seen it as childish or unflattering. But for Sheila this was a moment for her to have fun and participate fully with our team and get to know her husband's colleagues. I think that was the moment we all fell in love with Sheila and the moment she became a dear friend to us all. As a member of InterVarsity's Multiethnic Ministries team I am thankful for Sam's leadership in my life but I am also grateful for the opportunity of having met and gotten to know Sheila, a great woman who entered into our lives and genuinely loved us all. ---Rev. Dr. Orlando Crespo

Orlando Crespo - May 05, 2020 at 04:22 PM

OC

“ Orlando Crespo lit a candle in memory of Sheila Barkat



Orlando Crespo - May 05, 2020 at 03:51 PM

WG

“ Rebecca and I count a great privilege to have met with Bhabhi (sister-in-law) Sheila. When we were in Pakistan, we had heard about this great couple who lived in the US and finally met with Bhabhi Sheila when we moved to England in 1998. I met with Bhai Sam and Bhabhi Sheila on a local bus stop in Southall as we were going to the same conference. Since that time on, we had frequent communication over the phone and reciprocal visits. We always enjoyed their company. They always spared some time for our family and we were honoured. Having Maki ki roti and sarson ka saag on the Broadway Southall was a must during their visit. Bhabhi Sheila was always smiling with red nail polish on and lipstick on her face. She knew the art of building and maintaining social relations by cracking jokes, helping Rebecca in the kitchen and by bringing home-made cakes from the US. At the same time, in her calm and suggestive ways she gave words of wisdom. Both Rebecca and I will never forget the suffering and pain you bore for us. In November 2018 when we visited them in NY, our connecting flight from the East Coast got delayed and both Bhai Sam and Bhabhi waited for us till 2:00 in the morning at New Ark airport. Thank you, Bhabhi, for taking this pain. I think, I am correct by saying (it does not matter if you disagree) that after every successful man, there is a woman who works behind the curtain. Proverbs 31:31 says, “Honour her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate”.
Wilson and Rebecca Gill, Southall, London

Wilson Rebecca Gill - May 04, 2020 at 03:26 PM

WG

“ Wilson And Rebecca Gill lit a candle in memory of Sheila Barkat



Wilson and Rebecca Gill - May 04, 2020 at 03:22 PM

MS

“ I’d like to join those who wish to honor this special woman. She was a beloved and respected mother not only to her own boys, but also to the strays they brought home. I was one of those, and she made me feel as much a true son as I was able to receive. She was regal and wise, with a depth and presence that belied her smallish stature. She was caring and devoted and deeply concerned. Her hug and smile were sincere and meaningful. When she looked you in the eyes you knew unquestionably that she loved you. No pretense; just real. She was one-half of a husband-and-wife team that made you feel like you’d done them a favor simply to show up at their home, and that they’d been excitedly awaiting your arrival. She was often reserved and seemed perfectly content with operating behind the scenes, though you knew she was taking it all in. When she did speak, her words carried weight for their relative rarity. In motherly fashion she would forever implore you not only to “Eat, eat,” but would be sure to have some portions wrapped and ready for you to take with. I never heard her complain about her own struggles; in fact, I usually only learned of them much later. But she was quick to move toward the needs of those around her. She could be sober and serious. She could be feisty and vocal, especially when, with furrowed brow, she was considering or confronting a wrong. At such times there was no reticence—a mark, of course, of fierce love. But her laugh was never, ever far away. An exuberant and unrestrained laugh; nothing demure about it. Absolute delight in the moment and not the least bit self-conscious. Sometimes spontaneous and inexplicable, as if she’d spotted some quirk or incongruity—even in herself—that those around her had missed. And irresistibly contagious, which delighted her further still, as if to say, “Come, share my joy!” Of course she is too-soon-gone and it was far, far too long since I’d seen her. But I remember. I miss her now, and more so as I ponder her life. Which is how it should be, I guess.

*She was a lady. She was inimitable. She was a true matriarch.
She quietly built a life-long legacy.
She was beautiful.
And did I mention her laugh?*

*My heart goes out to those who will miss her most. My prayers are
with you. We shall see her again!*

Mike Sergey

Michael Sergey - May 04, 2020 at 09:57 AM



“ *There was a Star
Which shone in our sky
Who had a special glow
And a unique light*

*A flow of living colors
And a joyful sight
An aroma of sweetness
That spread so right*

*With an angelic smile
And a presence of nobility
She gave it all
To whomever touched her life*

*A song of joy
With the music of a heartbeat
In this world
She was Barkat's love and life*

*Turn by turn we will all leave this earth
To meet her again
This is a promise true and sweet*

*This was my sister Sheila
Not by blood
But eternally in Jesus Christ*

... Your brother, Aziz

Aziz Ditta - May 03, 2020 at 03:12 PM



“ *There was a Star
Which shone in our sky
Which had a special glow
And a unique light*

*A flow of living colors
And a joyful sight
An aroma of sweetness
That spread so right*

*With an angelic smile
And a presence of nobility
She gave it all
To whomever touched her life.*

*A song of joy
With the music of a heartbeat
In this world
She was Barkat's love and life*

*Turn by turn we will all leave this earth
To meet her again
This is a promise true and sweet*

*This was my sister Sheila
Not by blood
But eternally in Jesus Christ.*

Your brother Aziz

Anita Din - May 03, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Unexpected Loss.*

Losing a loved one brings many emotions out of us all. Sometimes it also leaves many questions.

We are grieving over the unexpected loss of our amazing sister-in-law Bhabi Sheila, on March 26, 2020.

Being younger in the family I met my Sister-in-law when I was five on their wedding. She was a great encouragement to us all. I cannot help saying, because of her special love and care she stood besides our brother Dr. Samuel Barkat and encouraged him to bring all brothers, sisters and relatives here in USA. We all remember visiting them and reminiscing about when we were younger. The good times we had will never be forgotten.

Heavenly, Father comfort my brother and their children in their unbearable time of life.

So in faith we continue to ask and seek Your Will to shower our family with your love and affection during this time. We love you for Jesus! Amen

Saleem Barkat - May 03, 2020 at 01:11 PM

RD

“ Sister Sheila, (I always called her Baua jii) was a real big sister and a loving and caring friend who was compassionate and full of sympathy for whoever came across her. I remember the first time I met her was in 1985 at my fathers funeral in New York and since we developed a bond and friendship that lasted until she went to be with Lord. We had some wonderful times with Dr. Samuel Barkat and Their sons and their family’s. There is so much to write of the wonderful times we had in NY, eating out together, traveled to different places and enjoyed each other’s company. Our hearty condolences to our Brother Dr. Samuel Barkat and family. I would like to dedicate Proverbs 31:26-28 to sister Sheila as I knew her. V 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. V-27. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of Idleness. V-28 Her children arise up and call her blessed, her husband also, and he praiseth her.

Ruth Ditta - April 30, 2020 at 11:44 PM



“ I've known Aunty Sheila since childhood and what always touched me the most as her most outstanding characteristic was her extremely gentle soul and her way of looking at a person as a whole. I was blessed to spend time with her on a regular basis. She offered a kind of moral support in both times of happiness as well as trouble that led to an assurance of faith, hope and love in our God's unconditional love and acceptance. I will never forget her soft voice and smiling face at every single meeting. When I was recovering in the hospital from a serious brain injury, Aunty Sheila was there frequently, both physically and emotionally, reminding me of my blessings and the hope we have in our relationships for a stronger future with each other and God. Her gentle nature and spirit lived alongside a cheerful and buoyant personality. Aunty Sheila would bake us special treats on the weekends which I and my three siblings would find ourselves fighting over as besides the wonderful taste, they were filled with love and caring. Private conversations with her were always filled with a practicality and love that one can feel, more than quantify in any real way. Aunty Sheila exemplified the grace and dignity of a good woman who always chose to do the right thing by everyone involved in any given situation. As a female, she taught me that my greatest strength was my softness when used in a wise, God-fearing and loving way. I really miss the reassurance of knowing she was there, gently supporting all her loved ones as she kept a beautiful home running with class and style. Miss you, Aunty jee. I thank you for your presence and influence in my life. For a young girl growing up, you provided an example of courage, strength, dignity and grace that I will now carry with me into my life for the rest of it. I am so thankful for having had the experience of closeness with such a beautiful and exemplary soul as Aunty Sheila. Love you and miss you tremendously...

Anita Din - April 30, 2020 at 11:04 AM

DR

“ *Sheila was such an incredible woman of faith. She was gracious and kind, and always by Sam's side. I remember the last time I saw Sheila, she gave me a big hug and said I could always count on her and Sam anytime I needed. She was an example of a wise and gentle soul. God bless you Barkat family as you grieve the loss of your beloved Sheila.*

*Daysi Russell
Wycliffe USA*

Daysi Russell - April 29, 2020 at 11:47 AM

JM

“ *Gloria and I cherish sweet and precious memories of our dear Auntie Sheila whom we have known for several years. Her beautiful smile, jokes and character will never be forgotten. Both Dr and Mrs. Samuel Barkat are a beautiful example of happy married couple. We surely will miss Mrs. Sheila Barkat, but are confident that she is absent from the body and is present with the LORD JESUS CHRIST, whom she loved and adored. We look forward to see her in heaven. What a day of rejoicing that will be. Whenever the Barkats came to Orlando we looked forward to see them and have sweet fellowship.*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 - Corinthians 1:3-4

JAVED STEPHEN MASSEY

JAVED S MASSEY - April 28, 2020 at 11:45 AM

ER

“ *Sheila reminds me of the woman in Proverbs 31: Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.
I would call her a "trooper", always willing to travel wherever Sam went to serve the Lord, she was beside him to support him. What an encouragement she was! Elfi*

Elfi Rivera - April 27, 2020 at 09:58 AM



“ *Sheila, a sweet woman that touched my heart and blessed us just with being there. A great example of a wonderful woman of God, wife and mother. We continue living with the hope of that eternal reunion.*

Josue Fernandez - April 26, 2020 at 08:07 PM

RH

“ We first met dear Sheila when she and Sam began wintering in Orlando at our Wycliffe Center in the 2000s. I'm so glad she got fed up with New York winters and ended up in our backyard. From that moment our lives were never the same and they only got better with each winter. We would look forward to each January when she and Sam would arrive, anticipating much laughter, deep conversations and great meals together.

Around our community, Sheila was often referred to lovingly as the Queen, because there was always something regal about her. We loved her and felt her love coming back to us all the time.

In November 2014 I stayed with them in New York and learned what a marvelous hostess Sheila was. I lacked nothing. The photo I am uploading is from a time before I met Sheila and Sam. It was on a table, so I snapped a picture of it because it reminded me of the fun loving and adventuresome person she was standing at the rail of some unknown ship.

Sheila, you have sailed ahead of us, but we look forward to the eternal reunion one day. I suspect you will have cookies and tea waiting for us.

Russ and Lynda



Russ Hersman - April 26, 2020 at 05:28 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Scott Cunningham - April 26, 2020 at 04:19 PM

SC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Scott Cunningham - April 26, 2020 at 04:18 PM

EW

“ Just a word from an old friend, Edward Welch, remembering back to – if I’m recalling correctly – the late 1950s into the early 1960s in Tennessee, first in Knoxville and then in Chattanooga. Sam and Sheila were in our church, and often in our home there in Knoxville, and I remember her and Sam with joy. In fact, Sheila was one of my dad’s nurses in the hospital when he had his first heart attack! Such a sweet Christian lady, with love for people and for her Lord.

Then in later years, every time we have seen her and Sam, we always thought, “Our same, dear Sheila..., she lives to serve the Lord and to serve others.” God bless and comfort her beloved Sam and the family, who will miss her. We miss her too. –Edward and Irene

Ed Welch - April 26, 2020 at 01:40 PM

PP

“ Memories flit back through the decades, actually six of them, to the moment Julie and I were first transfixed with the regal beauty of the Madam Sheila descending the stairs of the plane that had brought her to the arms of her lovers, best friend, Sam. The huge crowd "oohed" and "ahhed" as Sam and Sheila made their way toward a waiting car, and then following a police escort, drove to Tennessee Temple. Several hundred students cheered her arrival. Thus began a life-long journey in Sheila's newly adopted land.

What a privilege to have spent many hours with my beloved older Pakistani sister over the ensuing years. Always gracious, humble and reaching out to our concerns, Sheila epitomized what I think the word Christian is meant to portray.

Sheila loved Sam unreservedly. Not one to show affection in public, she sparkled in Sam's presence. She was the cleft in the rock to which Sam could retreat in times of professional and personal turbulence. She was always there. What a gift.

Thank you, Sheila, for the deep impact you have made in our lives.

Until we meet again on the far shore...

*Phil and Julie Parshall
SIM*

Phil Parshall - April 26, 2020 at 08:31 AM

LO

“ Can't believe bhabi Sheila is not with us anymore, it is written in the Bible, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Yes we can be comforted by knowing that she is in peace and in the presence of God. Bhabi Sheila was full of life and knew how to enjoy it to the full extent, whether it be going to church, a family event, a wedding, or family gathering at home for Christmas, she was always well prepared for the occasion. God had blessed her abundantly and she shared her blessings with the family and others. Bhabi ji, Ghazala, Lubna and I always did things together. Will miss you not being with us. Love Lozena.

Lozena - April 24, 2020 at 12:57 PM

SB

“ Red punch bowl. Red carpet. Red all over. Sitting in the living room while Auntie got ready for the party. Being allowed to help with the punch. The Christmas tree and Auntie asking me to plug in the lights. The scary pantry in the basement and Auntie coming with me to get a jar. That beautiful corsage she wore to some event. Her saris. Her nails. The paratha she made for me and only me because I wanted one. That time she took me to the store to buy a Halloween mask. Seeing her laugh with mom and Cha-Chi Gina while playing pool. Yup, pool. That peanut canister and the fake snake that popped out but really the laughing, Auntie's laughing, and the fun and the wonder of all this emotion around me but really the joy on Auntie's face frozen in my mind. How lucky we all are. - Solomon

Solomon Barkat - April 20, 2020 at 08:38 PM

SJ

“ 7 files added to the album *Dado*



Saima & Jim - April 20, 2020 at 05:33 PM

NF

“ 11 files added to the album *Memories Album*



New York Family - April 18, 2020 at 03:41 PM

NF

“ *"Burning the Old Year"*

*Letters swallow themselves in seconds.
Notes friends tied to the doorknob,
transparent scarlet paper,
sizzle like moth wings,
marry the air.*

*So much of any year is flammable,
lists of vegetables, partial poems.
Orange swirling flame of days,
so little is a stone.*

*Where there was something and suddenly isn't,
an absence shouts, celebrates, leaves a space.
I begin again with the smallest numbers.*

*Quick dance, shuffle of losses and leaves,
only the things I didn't do
crackle after the blazing dies.*

—Naomi Shihab Nye

The space left by dearest Mom shouts rather than celebrates. How can we ever begin again without her? There will always be regrets about things we "didn't do," but then life, if it is true life, will always leave some things undone... because there was always more we wanted. Mom, you will always live in our hearts. Thank you for how you ignited beauty and gratitude in the world around you. Your influence burns bright.

New York Family - April 17, 2020 at 04:58 PM

NF

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



New York Family - April 16, 2020 at 03:05 PM

JO

“ 5 files added to the album *Sheila laughing*



John607B - April 15, 2020 at 03:58 PM

JL

Like so many, I was privileged to visit Sheila and Sam and experience the unconditional warmth and sense of family that Sheila extended so freely with her smile, her hospitality, her food and her gentle spirit. I also was gifted by her wisdom that would often be expressed in ways that I never expected.

As I read through these moving tributes, though, I am drawn to also reflect on Sam's devotion to Sheila. The love, both practical and heart felt came through from Sam to Sheila and from Sheila to Sam. Sam's attentiveness to her needs, especially as age took its toll, was such a blessing to experience. I remember thinking I pray that I can be as attentive and eager to serve Mary Beth as Sam was to Sheila.

Thank you, Sheila, for welcoming me into your home and into your lives and for giving me the gift of feeling like family whenever I was with you!

Warmly, Jim Lundgren

Jim Lundgren - May 06, 2020 at 05:26 PM

DB

Sam and Sheila came into our lives, as so many others have said and could say, at exactly the right moment. They brought with them the very compassionate breath of God.

It's with real pain that we've learned of Sheila's passing and now of the grief of loss that are the waters that Sam, John, Jim, and the wider family must navigate.

Sam always spoke of his beloved Sheila—and indeed has just done so again on the phone—with deepest affection. She was cherished for sixty-five years by her loving husband, a privilege so few have experienced.

Sheila will be so very much missed, but her memory will at the same time live long in the family she nurtured. We cannot even imagine the numbers of lives that have been warmed, touched, encouraged, and revived by Sheila and Sam together. We only know that ours are merely representative of many, many more.

May our Lord now cradle Sam, John, Jim, and their families in this odd season of remembering and letting go.

Warmest regards,

David and Karen Baer

David and Karen Baer - May 08, 2020 at 03:06 PM