

# Barbara Kligerman Enjoys Time at the JCC



Stephen Silver

**B**arbara Kligerman grew up in Philadelphia's Oak Lane neighborhood, graduated from Olney High School, and went to Temple University. She met her husband, Barton, on the boardwalk in Atlantic City, and she now lives in Ventnor, also on the Boardwalk, not far from where she and her husband met.

"He was in the Army, actually," she said. "I met him in the summer, and the following March, after he got out of the service, we got married." Following their wedding in 1953, the couple lived for several years in a house near Wyndmoor, in Springfield Township in Montgomery County, and they have five children, nine grandchildren, and

one great-grandchild.

Kligerman was active years ago in the Jewish organization B'nai Brith and the BBYO (B'nai Brith Youth Organization), eventually becoming president of her chapter, and "made a lot of wonderful friends" through those activities. She was also involved with Deborah Hospital and "did a lot of singing in groups," including with her synagogue choir at Beth Tikvah on Paper Mill Road in Glenside.

She and her husband bought a house in Ventnor, using it as a summer home for more than 50 years, and then they sold their house and moved to the shore full-time following her husband's retirement. After 65 years of marriage, Barton, a Korean War veteran who was a builder, developer and construction contractor throughout the Philadelphia

region, passed away in 2017.

Kligerman moved to a high-rise following the passing of her husband. And she has continued to be active and have involvement with the Jewish community.

"I became very much involved in the JCC," she said of her days since coming to Ventnor full-time. "I do a lot of programs there and a lot of exercise there."

Kligerman finds a lot of other ways to remain active, in addition to exercise at the JCC.

"At this point in my life, I play canasta and I am involved in Hadassah, and I am involved with the Chabad down there, which I really like a lot. They do a lot of activities."

In addition, in her own time, Kligerman enjoys doing art, including ceramics.

According to the JCC's Serena Franks, Kligerman has been a member of the JCC for more than 20 years and

is "incredibly active at the JCC."

"She attends most of our events and programs and supports our JCC," Franks said, noting that Kligerman is "the most youthful" for her age.

"I'm certainly involved in a lot of things here, so I guess everybody thinks I'm a little younger," Kligerman said.

Among activities for the large community of local seniors that are offered by the JCC in Margate, which it calls "Active Adult Programs," are martial arts, chair yoga, bridge, Tai Chi, and a crochet club. There are also several upcoming one-shot events, including a Mahjong & Canasta Brunch in December, a day trip to American Dream in the Meadowlands, and a Drag Diva Bingo, both in January. ■

*Stephen Silver is a Broomall-based freelance writer.*



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