

Margaret (Nebenzahl) Gutman '46

(1929 - 2016)



Margaret was born in 1929 in Warsaw Poland. In 1938 her father Zigmund Nebenzahl moved the family to Melbourne following Hitler's rise to power. The family later moved to Sydney where Margaret attended Kambala, finishing as Dux. She went on to study arts at the University of Sydney and received a scholarship to the United Nations in New York. She met and later married Isaac Gutman in New York and had two sons Sandy and Michael.

Returning to Australia in 1954 they settled in Castlecrag. Margaret worked for several publications as a journalist, including a stint at SBS-radio. She also worked with the Sydney identity June Dally-Watkins on several fashion ventures.

Margaret was heavily involved with the Sydney Jewish community. She was Executive Director of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and worked tirelessly for the Sydney Jewish Museum. Peter Wertheim worked with Margaret during this time and said "she was blessed with an abundance of intelligence, energy, tact, and empathy". She organised countless events and projects showcasing Jewish art and culture, including the Yom Ha'atzmaut function on the 50th anniversary of Israel's foundation. She also helped to organise an exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum in 1998 which featured more than 300 Judaica exhibits, illuminated Hebrew manuscripts, richly embroidered synagogue textiles and ceremonial silver objects from the Jewish Museum of Prague. Margaret passed away on 25 May 2016.