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10-1-2018

Miriam Michels Davis ('Mike')



Miriam Michels Davis ("Mike"), age 92, passed away on May 18, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois.

She was born March 5, 1926, in Albion, Illinois, and married Newell Edward Davis on December 25, 1947. Miriam resided in Grinnell from 1965 through 1973 with her husband, Newell, minister of Grinnell's United Church of Christ - Congregational, and their daughter, Mirelle.

Miriam was preceded in death by her husband Newell in 1978 and brother Clark Dean Michels in 1996.

She is survived by her daughter, Mirelle Davis Bloch, and granddaughter, Agneska Bloch, of Evanston, Illinois; sister Marilyn Michels Leach of Lincoln, Nebraska; sister Joyce Michels Rhodes of Huntley, Illinois; and sister-in-law, Kay Smith Michels, of Evanston, Illinois.

Miriam completed a Master's of Education at Peabody College of Education and Human Development in Nashville, Tennessee. She served for 10 years as the Director of Professional and Career Development Services at Drake University, from which she retired in 1993. Prior to her work in university career services, Miriam taught music, privately and in the schools, and was also a choral director. She was a member of Plymouth Congregational UCC church in Des Moines, where she served as a Stephen Minister in her retirement. Miriam was devoted to her family and always a feminist. In addition to being a committed member of the Democratic party, she was active in the civil rights movement and served as a leader of the Iowa State Chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 6, 2018, at Plymouth Congregational UCC Church, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines. Donations may be made in Miriam's honor to Planned Parenthood of the Heartland (www.ppheartland.org) or the Southern Poverty Law Center (www.splcenter.org).