

In loving memory of Simone Kritzer



February 11, 1923 – January 4, 1977



And her family in 1961

Bella Simone Morali was born in Paris February 11, 1923 beloved daughter of Céline and René Morali. She grew up above the family hardware store on rue de Patay with her two brothers, Albert Roux and Louis Morali, and attended the neighborhood school, École Patay. She was a serious student of the piano, studying to be a concert pianist. Throughout the Nazi occupation of Paris Simone, 17 years old when France was invaded, played an active role in the French Resistance as secretary and courier for the 13th *arrondissement* neighborhood Commandant in the French Forces of the Interior. She also helped her mother in the rescue of approximately 300 Jewish refugees and prisoners of war escaping out of Germany. Shortly after Paris was liberated in September of 1944 she met her future husband, Hy Kritzer, a medic in the US Army from New York City. He was a cousin of Simone's best friend and next door neighbor, Sylvie Goldfarb.

After the war Simone left her family in France and sailed alone across the Atlantic to marry Hy in February 1946 in New York. They had three children, Matthew, Marie-Anne and Michèle. Simone was a devoted mother, and worked to support the family while Hy recovered from tuberculosis contracted during the war and later while he completed his education at Hiram College, American University, and Catholic University in Washington, D. C. While living in Washington D.C. she worked as a dental hygienist assistant at Group Health.

Because her education was interrupted during the war, Simone was highly motivated to complete her Secondary education, earning a GED. The family moved frequently – from New York, Ohio, Washington, D.C., Indiana, Maryland, and back to Ohio. In between moves, Simone brought the children to Paris to visit her family— Albert Roux and Tante Denise, Louis Morali and Tante Suzanne, Valentine and Albert Abramson and all the French cousins: Michel, Mireille, Sylviane, Philippe, Pierre-Luc and Christine. Her mother's death in 1965 was a terrible loss as mother and daughter were very close.

Simone continued to play the piano surrounding her children with classical music. She gave private lessons in French language and culture, and entertained family and friends with delicious French cuisine. Scrabble was a favorite board game as long as French words were allowed. She enjoyed playing tennis, travelling in France, reading French literature and flower gardening. She held a special place in her heart for her grand-daughter Céline (CeCe), daughter of Matthew and his wife Linda.

Tragedy struck when she was in a head-on collision the night of Thanksgiving Eve November 26, 1969 along with daughter Michèle, only 8 years old at the time. Simone was hospitalized for nine months suffering extensive internal injuries and the loss of her leg. Michèle was thrown from the car and had multiple fractures in both legs, also requiring a long recovery in traction. Simone struggled valiantly to recuperate but never fully recovered and died January 4, 1977.

Her memory is for a blessing.