

# Class Notes

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### **Eleanor Helen Gans**

**Lippman** died Sept. 26,

2021, at home in Cresskill, N.J. She was 101. Eleanor was born in the Bronx in 1920 to a secular Jewish family. She was brought up with progressive views, particularly from her father, who was an immigrant, a socialist, and a union organizer. She was an activist in her years at Barnard, earning a B.A. in economics in 1941. Eleanor loved beauty, art, culture, and dance. In the 1950s, she began folk dancing and helped popularize this traditional art in her adopted home, Seattle. She was married to Leopold Lippman for 43 years, until his untimely death from cancer. Together they raised four sons who strive to live up to her example of making friends everywhere she went and standing up for the underdog. Her abhorrence of injustice led her to support the United Farm Workers in the 1960s and to refuse a neighbor's request to sell the family's house to whites only. She raised her sons to think for themselves, and they continue their efforts to support beleaguered people and an endangered planet. Eleanor worked for the War Labor Board during WWII and, later, as a social worker, going on strike in the interests of her clients and being fired for her efforts. In her 50s, after the family

had relocated to Sacramento and then New Jersey, she went to graduate school, achieving her master's in city planning from NYU. She finished her career in the 1980s as deputy director of surface transportation planning at the NYC Department of Transportation. In over 30 years of well-deserved retirement, she enjoyed traveling to India, Japan, Turkey, Egypt, and many other domestic and international destinations. She continued folk dancing for an impressive total of 60 years. She also became an award-winning photographer, carrying her camera everywhere. Her lifetime of volunteer work included the Women's Trade Union League (1941), Cub Scouts, Group Health Cooperative, Americans for Democratic Action (Seattle), fair housing and disadvantaged children (Sacramento), women's access to employment, the spread of hearing-loop technology as a social solution to hearing loss, and Occupy Bergen County (N.J.). The family has posted a memorial website at <http://eleanor.lippnet.us>.