



CONDOLENCE MOTION

Moved by: Councillor James Pasternak

Seconded by: Councillor Shelley Carroll

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Norene Gilletz on Sunday, February 23, 2020.

A trailblazing writer, columnist, cooking instructor and food consultant, Norene was the leading author of kosher cookbooks in Canada and a fixture of the Jewish community.

Known by many in the Jewish community as the 'Kosher Julia Child of Canada' or the 'Canadian-Jewish Martha Stewart', Norene's career took off in 1968 with the publishing of her iconic book "Second Helpings, Please!," initially intended as a local fundraising project with other women and volunteers in support of B'nai Brith Women in Montreal. The book, however, was an overnight sensation, selling over 200,000 copies, and in its 17th printing, has become synonymous with Canadian Jewish home cooking of the past 40 years. One article, published just days after her death, posited: *"Is there a Jewish woman from one end of the country to the other who doesn't own a copy of Norene Gilletz's classic cookbook?"*

A long-time resident of Toronto, Norene would go on to publish 11 more cookbooks and hundreds of food columns over her career, each written with her own wisdom and wit, and all with the humble notion that traditional Jewish recipes could and should be prepared by anyone without any fuss, relying on tradition to deliver taste. Many have noted that she was always present, always there to give her support to anyone and everyone, and "a role model for other like-minded women".

Norene will be sorely missed by her family and friends, and the tens of thousands of devoted fans, many of whom affectionately refer to themselves as "Norenens". She is remembered as having a zest for life, a thoughtful, caring mensch, warm-hearted and funny, who loved nothing more than bringing people together.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Norene Gilletz's family and friends.

April 30, 2020