



IN MEMORIAM

Elaine Eller Goldman

Tom Schramski, PhD, CMAA

In the summer of 1974 I walked on to Elaine Goldman's stage and my life was never the same. My Dad was in the empty chair and I saw him (and myself) in a new way that also opened a new door for my professional life. Elaine seemed fearless and I knew I had an opportunity where I was headed. It was a moment I still remember vividly 43 years later.

Elaine Eller Goldman, PhD, TEP, who passed away on July 4, 2017, was a dynamic individual who led an extremely eclectic life. She was a renowned psychodramatist who established two training institutes and trained hundreds of therapists over the years.

Elaine was the oldest of three children, including younger brothers Paul and Karl, who grew up in the Chicago area. She was also an artist from an early age and created many sculptures during her life.

Elaine spent many years in the theatre as a set designer, lighting designer, stage manager and director, which began her path into Psychodrama. She attended Purdue University in the theatre department and directed several successful university productions there. In December of 1961, she was the assistant to Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, William Saroyan and also stage managed the World Premier of three plays he had written there. Among her actors was Studs Terkel of WFMT fame, who also won the Pulitzer Prize for *The Good War*. She attended Mundelein University in Chicago and was one of the first women to receive her Masters in Theatre and a PhD in Psychology.



She then went to the Moreno Institute in Beacon New York where she was trained by J.L. Moreno and was certified as a Director two years later. Eventually she was certified as a Trainer Educator Practitioner (TEP) in Psychodrama. She established the Mid-Western Institute for Psychodrama where she began to train other therapists in the method. She was on the Executive Council of the ASGPP and also on the Ethics Committee.

In 1974, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she began to direct psychodrama at the Camelback Psychiatric Hospital. She established the Camelback Hospitals Western Institute for Psychodrama and continued to train therapists from all over the world. Over 20 years, she directed more than 10,000 sessions with patients, clients and students. Along with her co-therapist, Delcy Morrison, she wrote *Psychodrama: Content and Process*, which was recognized as one of the leading texts on the method. The book was eventually translated and published in Japanese. She also produced one of the premier instructional video tapes of the method.

She is survived by her brother Karl Eller; daughter, Sally Goldman Scott; son, Mark Goldman; four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Elaine is also survived by many students and patients across the globe. She was an artist and psychodramatist who inspired many in the theater of life.