

Celebrating Miriam Garfinkle (1954 - 2018)

Miram Garfinkle is my hero (I do not have many). Miriam is my hero NOT ONLY because

- she adopted Zatoun from day 1 in May 2004
- or that, she became the #1 salesperson & promoter of Zatoun in the world (12,000 bottles went thru her front door)
- or, she was a founding director and board member
- not only because she opened her home to the first 6 years of monthly board meetings and always hosted us with dessert and tea
- or, she gave me the key to her house so I could deliver Zatoun when she was not home
- she remained committed to the very end to Zatoun, to Palestine, to justice and truth

Also, not only because, as a 17-year old counsellor in a Jewish summer camp she took advantage of everyone being on the bus to read them the PLO charter. This in 1970 when Israel basked in the euphoria of 1967. This was decades before it became obvious what Israel truly was and what it practised. Imagine the courage and internal compass of a 17 year old standing against such a colossal public relations force!

Also, not because, as a young doctor she gave an interview to Macleans on the subject of Palestine which put her at odds with her beloved father whom she admired greatly on every issue except seemingly Palestine.

Miriam is my hero also because she;

- danced
- played the banjo
- painted
- canoed
- played hockey
- gardened & birdwatched

- the last time I visited Miriam was 2 weeks before she died - she was low on "Zatoun" and insisted I deliver. She had a unique way of pronouncing the word that will never leave me.

Miriam is my hero because she is a truly beautiful, balanced and accomplished person who loved nature and people and understood in her deepest core that justice was the only true way to secure both.

In all this, we remember and thank her family, her children who supported Miriam in all she did for others. Thank you Leah and thank you Simon. I also thank Ulli her partner who supported her in every way possible, every day until her last. Even in death, Ulli has shared Miriam with us in the incredible website he assembled.

I will miss the phone calls, the emails, the visits, the sharing of wisdom and empathy and sometimes outrage. Now I have Miriam with me as a "constant comrade" walking beside me with her love and also behind me with her courage.

Miriam you have left us but you are still with us.