

In Memoriam

JaFran Jones, chair of the music department at the University of Toledo and an ethnomusicologist, died on March 1, 1997 in her home after a two-year battle with cancer. Surviving is her sister, Sharon Jones. A native of Holdrege, Nebraska, JaFran Jones became chair of the music department in 1993. She had been a professor of ethnomusicology at Bowling Green State University from 1978 to 1993, served as chair of the Department of Composition and History during many of those years, and established and directed the gamelan ensemble at BGSU. Jones was a specialist in the music of Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco, Spain, and Greece. A 1962 graduate of Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas, Jones received her Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from the University of Washington in 1977. In 1983, Jones was awarded a Fulbright senior research grant to study music and religious sects in northern Africa. As part of the grant, she spent a year in Tunisia, Egypt, and Morocco to study the relationship of music to their cultures. An avid traveler, Jones sailed around the world on a teaching ship as part of an academic program called Semester at Sea, operated by the University of Pittsburgh.

MARILYN SHRUDE

*Bowling Green State University
The Toledo Blade, March 3, 1997*

Yedida Kalfon Stillman, distinguished ethnologist and teacher of the folkways and material culture of the Middle East died from cancer at the age of 52 on February 22, 1998. Yedida had been Professor of History, Near Eastern Languages, and Women's Studies at the University of Oklahoma since 1995. She previously taught in the Department of Judaic Studies and History and was also Director of Hebrew Studies at the State University of New York, Binghamton, where she received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching (1978).

Yedida was born in Morocco and grew up in Israel. She did her undergraduate work in Israel and received her B.A. (1967) from the Hebrew University, where she specialized in the folk literature and material culture of Sephardi and Oriental Jewry. She received her M.A (1968) and Ph.D. (1972) in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania. Her dissertation was on the wardrobe of a Jewish bride in medieval Egypt, based on research on materials from the Cairo Geniza. In 1967 she married Norman Stillman, a fellow student at the University of Pennsylvania and specialist in the history and culture of Middle Eastern Jewry. During their thirty one years of marriage, they found a unique way to combine marriage and family life with their academic careers and research. They published two books together: *Travail in Arab Land: Samuel A. Romanelli* (Jewish Publication Society, 1989) and *From Iberia to Diaspora: Studies in Sephardic History and Culture* (Brill Academic Publishers, 1998).

Very early in her academic career she became fascinated with the costumes and textiles of the Middle East and devoted a great part of her research to these topics. Among her early scholarly projects was a study of the collection of