

# **You Teach Me By Living**

*Dedicated to Ethel Werfel Owens on her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday - May 14, 2013*

**You teach me by living! You are the roots of my life!  
You teach me by living! You are the roots of my life!**

**I am the one true voice, the golden noise,  
piercing hearts and minds,  
marking life's great line, and the passing time,  
yes, the reason for rhyme,  
and the need for the bold - the core of your souls.**

**I teach you by living! I am the roots of your life!**

**Ninety years have flown. All my children grown,  
and their children dear add to my joy here.  
Traveled many roads ... guess there was no mold ...  
Paris to Peru, Maine and China, too.  
From my Brooklyn home to Chicago town,  
At-a-lanta called, Puerto Rico's shores ...  
but the place to beat, with its teeming streets  
is the sacred port that we call New York.  
Perfect world? No way! But I'm blessed each day!**

**I teach you by living! I am the roots of your life!**

**Challenge the mind to think. Dare the soul to drink  
all that beauty is to the eyes and ears.  
You must search for the great to enjoy heaven's grace.  
Learn your lessons well while you pass through Hell.  
Bach and Mozart reign, join with Beethoven,  
Matisse, Braque, Renoir, Shakespeare, Homer, Shaw.  
How can one refuse to love e'vry muse.  
We are made divine, but we waste so much time.**

**I teach you by living! I am the roots of your life!**

**You teach me by living! You are the roots of my life!  
You teach me by living! You are the roots of my life!**

# **Celebrating The Life of Ethel Werfel Owens**

**May 14, 1923 - October 27, 2020**



**October 24, 2021**

**Museum of Jewish History  
A Living Memorial To The Holocaust**

36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280

***Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are,  
That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm,  
How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides,  
Your looped and windowed raggedness, defend you  
From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en  
Too little care of this. Take physic, pomp,  
Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel,  
That thou mayst shake the superflux to them  
And show the heavens more just.***

*-- William Shakespeare, KING LEAR, Act III, Scene 4*

# Acknowledgements

The family of Ethel Werfel Owens would like to express its gratitude to family members, friends and acquaintances for the love shared with us in the aftermath of Ethel's departure.

We would like to thank the Little Nursing Home (Montclair, NJ) and its loving staff for providing Ethel with excellent care in her final year of life. We thank Martin's Funeral Home (Montclair, NJ), led by Richelle B. Williams, for allowing Ethel's transition to be treated with dignity despite the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial To The Holocaust for enthusiastically providing us with the opportunity to gather with you all in this convenient, beautiful and meaningful venue.

*We encourage everyone to visit [www.ethelwerfelowens.net](http://www.ethelwerfelowens.net)*

# Order of Service

**Prelude**

**Welcoming Remarks ..... Christopher Owens**

**Presentation ..... Geoffrey Owens**

**Presentation ..... Millard Owens**

**Reflection .....**

**Presentation ..... Christopher Owens**

**Musical Selection ..... "You Teach Me By Living"  
(Owens)**

**Memories ..... Attendees \***

**Presentation ..... Geoffrey Owens**

**Musical Selection ..... "Let My People Go"  
(Traditional)**

**Musical Selection ..... "Obla Di, Obla Da"  
(Lennon-McCartney)**

**Closing Remarks ..... Christopher Owens**

*\* If you had a personal relationship with Ethel or were one of her students, we invite you to briefly share your memories with us.*

