

MILDRED'S MINDSET

Wisdom from a Woman Centenarian



Mildred Kirschenbaum

with Gayle Kirschenbaum

Kirschenbaum Productions, LLC
New York, NY

PHOTOS

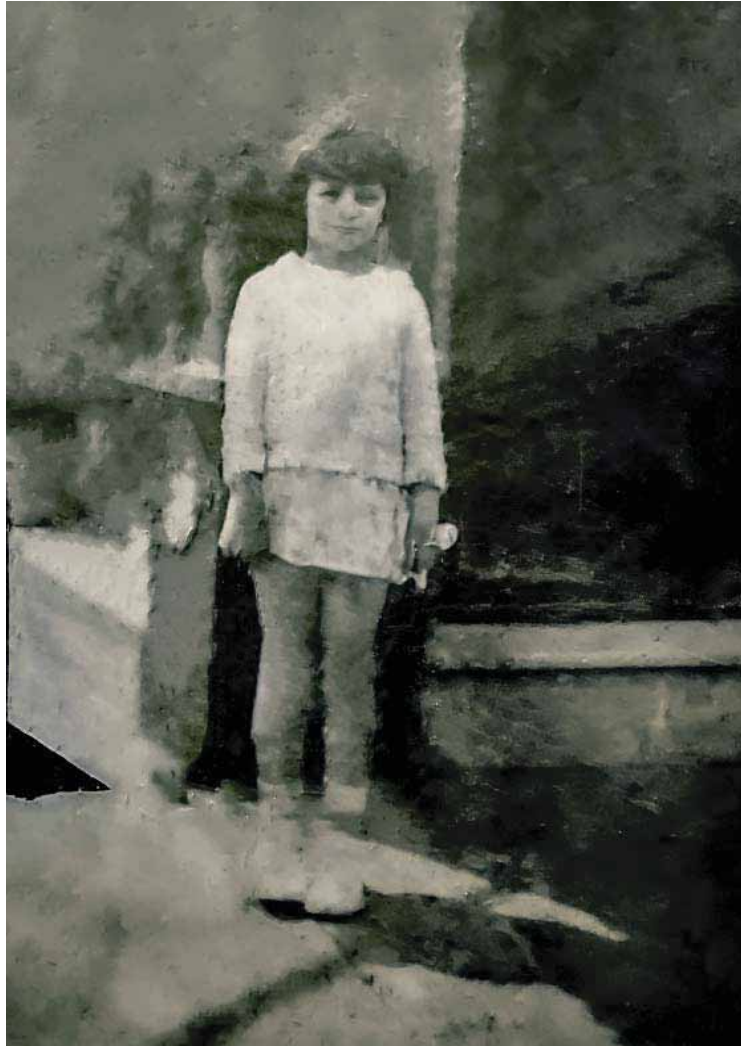
PHOTOS



1920s

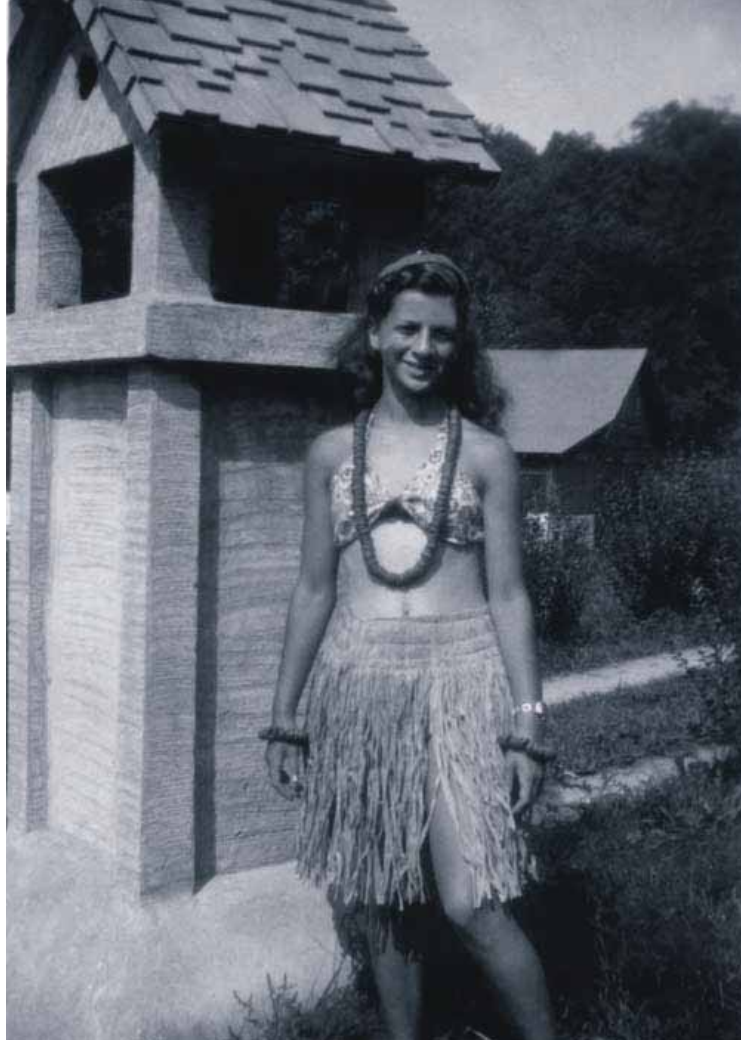


I was probably two years old here. I'm all dressed up to go to a party in a satin dress. This must have been shot in a professional studio.



Gayle insisted on including this poor-quality photo. I'm not sure it's me, but Gayle says it is. She's the family archivist.

1930s



Here I am, dressed up for Hawaiian Night in a bungalow colony we went to in the Catskills.



I'm not sure what's happening with my hair in this shot. It might not be my best photo, but it's the only one I have with my Brownie camera.



This was taken in the Catskills, as there were no fields of grass in Brooklyn. We went up for vacations, but we couldn't spend the entire summer there like others did, as my mother had to work.



I'm not sure whose car this was, but it made for a good prop. I'm wearing braided pigtails with a bow at the bottom of each for a little accent and flair.



My hair was wavy enough for me to make banana curls. They were fashionable then, as little Shirley Temple wore them in the 1930s.



I enjoyed riding horses in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, as long as they didn't go too fast.



Wow, I remember this lavender polka-dot dress. This was taken somewhere in Brooklyn. It's almost like a scene from *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*.



I was the first violinist and first chair at my high school graduation at Girls' High. I skipped a grade, known as Rapid Advance (RA) back then, allowing me to graduate early.

1940s and 1950s



Captured on New Year's Eve, 1941, when Gerry and I were dating. That's a live gardenia in my hair. Gerry was always impeccably dressed; notice he has a hanky in his pocket.



This was taken in my mother's house while Gerry was overseas, serving in the South Pacific during WWII. I was going to a wedding. I had a gift for putting myself together.



I'm wearing a beaver coat, something I wouldn't wear today, and a hat which I had made. It was felt with beaver trim. In those days, it wasn't difficult or costly to have a hat made.



After the war, Gerry came back thirty pounds heavier. I guess they had plenty of food where he was stationed. He worked in Graves Registration, which was fitting as his family owned a funeral home.



Gerry and I were attending a Bar Mitzvah. I just love this dress, with the uneven hem and sweetheart neckline. You could wear it today. If only I still owned it and had the figure for it.



I was in Miami Beach at my in-laws' home during the war while Gerry was overseas. I grabbed the hose for a drink of water.



On holiday in the Catskills. In those days it was common to wear ankle socks with dresses because you never went without socks.



Here I am with my parents in the Catskills on vacation. I'm wearing a plaid sun outfit. My mother was always a classy dresser.

1960s



Taken during our first cruise, this picture is from the *Franconia* ship of the Cunard Line. Departing and returning from New York Harbor, it sailed to the Caribbean.



I'm not exactly sure where this was shot. However, I look cute and very tanned.



I bought a secondhand wedding dress and put a pillow underneath to appear pregnant. My husband wore a cutaway coat, a white bathing suit bottom, and a collapsible top hat. We made our entrance dancing to "Get Me to the Church on Time," and ended up winning the costume party on the *Franconia* cruise. The following day, people jokingly started giving me baby gifts.



Gerry and I always liked to kibbitz when we posed for photos. This was during one of our trips.



I don't like the hat, but I'm wearing a beautiful silk dress for this black-tie function. I added the two clips on the side of the neckline to make it more stylish.



At my daughter Gayle's Bat Mitzvah, I dressed in a black Russian broadtail suit that I brought back from Israel. To add some color, I wore a pink silk wide-rim hat and Gerry wore a pink shirt.



I'm pretty sure this was taken in Israel while I was calling one of my relatives. I love the dome-style phone enclosure.



Gerry and I took a tour of Japan and checked into a hotel in Kyoto. We chose the Japanese-style room over the Western one. This was the bathtub in our room.

1970s



Gerry was wearing a tuxedo with velvet trim and a velvet bowtie for the black-tie function we attended. I wore a lavender print dress paired with a bracelet adorned with amethyst stones that complemented the colors in my dress.



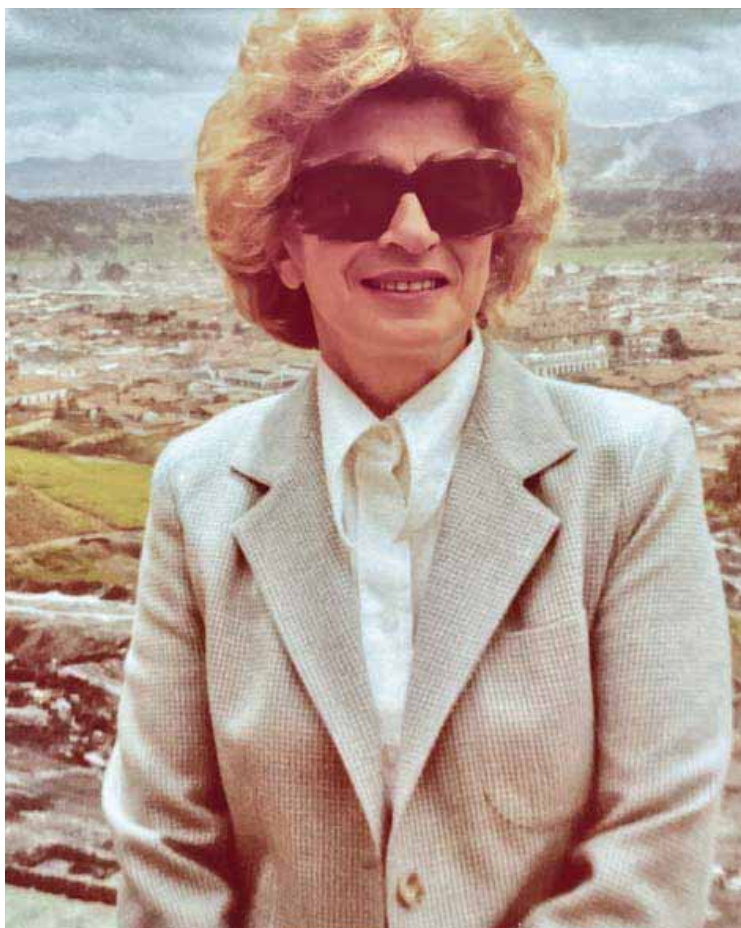
I always packed mix-and-match clothing when I traveled. I jazzed up this outfit with a necklace of rice pearls.



This must have been taken at breakfast in the kitchen at home before Gayle and I got dressed, as she was in a flannel nightgown, and I wore a bathrobe.



Gayle shot this photo of me when we were in Russia in the mid-70s during the Cold War, under Brezhnev's regime. What an experience!



My hair looks like it was just done. Not a strand was out of place. There must have been plenty of hairspray used.



Those were the days when I could tuck in my shirt. I look so nice and thin. Gerry, as usual, was dressed impeccably.



Here I am on a boat circling New York with the World Trade Center behind me, which I miss. I have vivid memories of watching the towers go up.



Gayle made a sketch from this photograph. It was taken in my kitchen on Long Island. I got a long phone cable so I could take the receiver into another room to speak. I talked on the phone a lot back then.

1980s and 1990s



Looks like I'm warming myself up with some wine. Gayle organized a ski weekend through my travel agency, and I went along for the après-ski experience.



We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary at a Long Island restaurant. Gayle recorded a video and captured me saying, "I can't believe I've been married fifty years. I feel like I have a young mind trapped in an old body."



Gerry and I were in the casino on a cruise ship. Back then, Gerry loved to play the slot machines and I loved to play dice games like craps.



This was from one of our cruises. I like that brown vertical-striped shirt that Gerry was wearing.



A fellow was staging photographs with military attire and put the hat and jacket on me.



American Airlines held a contest for travel agency owners to win a weekend in Los Angeles, all expenses paid, flying first class. You had to dress up like Marilyn Monroe and I won. We were at JFK, and Gerry and I went right on the plane.



I'm holding Gayle's 'dog-ter' and my 'grandog-ter', Chelsea, who later starred in the movie *A Dog's Life: A Dogumentary*, which premiered on HBO.



I was climbing Dunn's River Falls in Jamaica. Nothing could hold me back. It was very exhilarating.

2000s



Up until the end, Gerry always looked great. This was shot at the wedding of one of my granddaughters. It's hard to believe that just a couple of months later Gerry would suffer a massive stroke and pass away.



This was at Gayle's birthday party in her home and it looked like I was either the bartender or refilling my glass. I love that top so much that I still wear it.



Here I am in New York City, visiting Gayle. This was photographed while I was waiting on the subway platform.



Gerry and I went out to visit Gayle and her 'dog-ter', Chelsea, in California. We were walking Chelsea by the Santa Monica coast. It was beautiful. Unlike me, Gerry was always a dog lover.



Gayle and I are having dinner in Paris on the left bank in Saint-Germain-des-Prés. The city was packed and bustling, as it was during the 2006 World Cup. France was playing against Italy in the final match.



This was taken during the filming of Gayle's short, funny film, *My Nose*, about my campaign to convince her to get a nose job. This particular moment was captured in the plastic surgeon's office when he used a computer to alter Gayle's nose. My efforts were not successful and she kept her original, imperfect nose.



Gayle and I look really good in this photo. I was wearing a two-piece top with a transparent bottom layer and a sweater overlay that revealed part of the layer beneath.



I was enjoying large mussels in a Manhattan restaurant. This dish and a glass of wine had me smiling.

2010s



At my 90th birthday bash, I had a blast dancing on a bar in my pink boa. The bartender got in trouble for allowing me to do that. He told his boss that there were ten men around me and that if I had fallen, they would have caught me.



Photographer Tina Buckman captured images for the press for the release of our film, *Look At Us Now, Mother!* Gayle was wearing vintage Parisian eyeglasses that belonged to my deceased sister-in-law.



This was photographed by Madeline Bey. It was a loving moment captured on the rooftop of a building in Manhattan's West Village.



Gayle and I were in an ice bar in Norway. They gave us coats to wear on top of our jackets. I was still freezing my butt off. This was when we took a cruise through the magnificent Norwegian fjords.



This moment happened during a private screening of *Look At Us Now, Mother!* held at NYU. It marked the first time an audience experienced the film. Flying up to New York, I entrusted Gayle without seeing any previews. The response was incredible—a standing ovation. I was awestruck by Gayle's talent, marveling at how she crafted an extraordinary film by intertwining 8 mm home movies, old photos, and present-day footage.



Gayle and I were in a therapy session with Lois Braverman, who was the head of Ackerman Institute for Family Therapy at that time. She asked me to look at Gayle and tell her I didn't mean to hurt her and to ask her forgiveness. It was a poignant moment and captured for our film, *Look At Us Now, Mother!*



This was one of many Q&A sessions we did after the screening of our film. This was shot at a cinema in the East Village in New York City. I had never done Q&As before, but they came easily to me as I spoke from my heart.



This was at the same first screening at NYU. One of Gayle's friends presented me with gorgeous flowers. I was so surprised and grateful.

2020s



I'm at brunch, having my favorite Bloody Mary at a waterside restaurant in Lighthouse Point, Florida. It has a thick slice of crispy bacon inside, and the skewer has tomatoes, shrimp, olives, and pickles. Can you top this?



Here I am outside the Roxy Hotel in SoHo, about to go in to see a private movie screening. Through Gayle's membership in the Producers Guild of America, she is invited to many of these events. There was not only a Q&A afterward, but a reception with booze and delicious food.



Gayle put together a 100th birthday party for me in Florida at an Italian restaurant. I was overwhelmed by the room decorations, including all the large mounted photos on the walls from my life and an extravagant balloon display. My entire family was there. It was a great time.



We had a July 4th shindig at my club and my granddaughter painted my face, as there was a costume contest. I knew I was going to win with that face and I did.



Gayle and I were enjoying our time on a cruise. We both looked good in this selfie.



During my 100th birthday celebration cruise aboard Oceania's stunning ship, *Vista*, I was invited to host a Q&A session, sharing my secrets to longevity with the passengers. Right after, they pulled open the curtains behind me on the stage and the main chefs and officers presented me with a magnificent birthday cake.



I was invited on stage by the singer/songwriter Jax during her performance at the Amway Center in Orlando. The stadium held 20,000 people, and they all sang "Happy Birthday" to me. I was flabbergasted.



This was on a cruise when I was 99 years old. I was in the hot tub with a frozen mojito, not seen in the photo. I was surrounded by fellow passengers who were shocked to learn my age. We all had a good time.