

## Susan Herman - In Memoriam

Edwin Price

My mother's arc as a scholar was anything but orthodox. There were not years of tenure with a steady progression of publications, but rather, crossroads and bifurcating paths, some leading to the university and others winding through single-motherhood and adventures in business. However, as she traversed this course there was one constant, *El Carnero*. A pursuit that was born as a dissertation at Yale became a lifelong conversation with a 17<sup>th</sup> century writer. She made pilgrimages to Bogotá to search archives and compare manuscripts. There was text and subtext. There were versions and subversions and ultimately questions about the author's identity. She rigorously pursued Freile like a detective looking for clues that would unravel his mysteries. In the eight years since her passing, I've often wondered if perhaps she was getting too close, that the writer was still not ready to reveal what she proposed was his Jewish ancestry identifiable in Midrashic forms in his writing. Had Freile dreamed his pursuer and then awakened when he realized she had cracked his code.

Our family is thrilled to have my mother's work included in this publication dedicated to *El Carnero*. She was reborn at the 1991 conference in Ibagué. Upon my arrival in Bogotá a week later, I was greeted by a woman transformed, overjoyed by the reception her work received and surprised to learn that a number of people had been inquiring about her whereabouts. This affirmation and inclusion in the community of Colombianistas prompted a decade of productive and innovative scholarship. My mother's intellectual and spiritual journeys coalesced when she returned to the faith of her Colombian father by completing her Bat Mitzvah in June 2001 four months prior to her passing. Her unique and beautiful spirit lives on in her grandson Noah Joaquim whom she never met, but I know she touched.

Edwin Price  
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