

# Tribune-Review

Date: Wednesday, August 05, 2015  
Location: GREENSBURG, PA  
Circulation (DMA): 104,962 (22)  
Type (Frequency): Newspaper (D)  
Page: 1,6  
Section: Main  
Keyword: Esther L. Bush

with jewelry, and only a gauze bandage on her wrist suggested she was in a hospital room.

"After her remarks, she told everyone to go to the bar, enjoy the buffet and spend Henry's money wildly," one guest recalled.

Mrs. Hillman's death "marks the end of an era in American politics, and our nation is the poorer for this loss," said Dick Thornburgh, former Pennsylvania governor and U.S. attorney general. "Elsie was a true patriot, devoted to the principles that made our political system work for all of our citizens."

Mrs. Hillman graduated from the Ellis School, the Ethel Walker School and studied voice and piano at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J. She demonstrated her free spirit at Ellis by riding around the school with her boyfriend on a motorcycle, according to "Never a Spectator: The Political Life of Elsie Hillman," a book by Kathy McCauley.

She fell in love with Hillman, a Navy pilot, and married him in 1945 when she was 19.

Mrs. Hillman began her decades of community service as a teenager searching the skies for aircraft over Pittsburgh during World War II. She later cleaned instruments for surgery, sold War Bonds and knitted socks for soldiers.

She befriended blacks in Pittsburgh — among them, civil rights leader Nate Smith; attorney Wendell Free-land; Jesse Matthews Vann, the wife of former Pittsburgh Courier publisher Robert L. Vann; and William P. Young, the secretary of labor and industry for Gov. Bill Scranton.

"She just wanted to help everyone to be the best they could be and never wanted recognition for her contributions," said Esther Bush, director of the Urban League of Pittsburgh.

Mrs. Hillman joined the presidential campaign of Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952. That began her streak of supporting moderate Republicans such as Bush, Sens. John Heinz and Hugh Scott, and Govs. Scranton, Thornburgh and Tom Ridge.

"None of us would have achieved what we have politically without the guidance and leadership of Elsie Hillman," said Ridge, who lunched with

the Hillmans, Thornburgh and former Gov. Mark Schweiker last Christmas. "When I think of Elsie, I'll always think of her generous spirit and her warm heart." With her husband, she gave millions of dollars to charity to support causes such as the Hillman Cancer Center at UPMC. She co-chaired the Save Our Summers campaign in 2004 when budget cutbacks forced the city of Pittsburgh to close swimming pools and recreation centers.

She helped begin the Neighbor Aid campaign to assist families devastated by the Great Recession of 2008.

Roddey revealed another of Mrs. Hillman's secrets. Although Forbes magazine once estimated her husband's wealth at \$2.3 billion, she almost exclusively wore costume jewelry.

"Dearie, people think that's an emerald," he said she once told him. "I'm not going to waste my money on expensive jewelry. I have more important things to do with my money."

In addition to her husband, survivors include daughters Juliet Lea Simonds and Audrey Hillman Fisher; sons Henry Lea Hillman, Jr. and William Talbott Hillman; and nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

*Salena Zito is a Trib Total Media staff writer. Reach her at [szito@tribweb.com](mailto:szito@tribweb.com). Staff writer Bill Zlatos contributed.*



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Elsie Hillman chatted with Barbara Bush on Feb. 21, 2002, as they made the rounds, greeting guests at the annual Elsie Awards.

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PHILIP G. PAVELY | TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

Elsie Hillman and Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy enjoyed the ice rink at PPG Plaza on Dec. 18, 2001.



PHILIP G. PAVELY | TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

The Henry L. Hillman Foundation gave \$5.5 million to the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra in 2007 for the Hillman Endowment for International Performances.



*“Every person she ever met, she made to feel as though they were her best friend and that she would do anything for them, but her family always came first in her heart.”*

**HENRY HILLMAN**

# Urban League hosts Financial Literacy Education Symposium

by Paige Mitchell  
For New Pittsburgh Courier

The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's Bank on Greater Pittsburgh, in partnership with Neighborhood Allies, held a free Financial Literacy Symposium from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. at the Hosanna House in Wilksburg, on July 25.

The event included a full agenda of informative sessions to aid people in managing their money.

"I know money can be a sensitive topic for a lot of people, because people don't like to discuss what's in their pockets and bank accounts," attendee Tonya Garrett said, "But this event was enjoyable, because it focused on providing us with useful tips and knowledge of how to manage our income better regardless your yearly salary."

The keynote speaker for the event was, Maura Attardi. Attardi is the Director of Education and Community Relations at Money Management International, currently the largest nonprofit full-service credit counseling agency in the nation. Attardi specializes in educating professional athletes including the Pittsburgh Steelers, NCAA, and WWE.

Attardi has provided financial education to nearly 16,000 over the past five years. She is certified by the Credit Data Industry Association in the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Before joining MMI, she had a successful career serving both in the classroom and in leadership

roles at a variety of nonprofit organizations throughout the state of New Jersey. It is her vast experience in both fields of education and finance that has positioned her as a notable presenter and educator within financial education literacy.

Attardi enjoys traveling the world sharing her expert opinion, in hopes to create a financial ease in relationships and families everywhere.

"Longterm financial success is not determined by the amount of income earned, but how that income is spent," Attardi said.

Some of the topics and sessions discussed during the event was, "Emotional Spending," "Financial Stress Busters," "Get Started on Your Path to Financial Stability," "Budgeting and Cost Cutting," and more.

A free lunch was provided to all attendees from Miss Jean's Southern Cuisine. Prize drawings that included prizes such as iPads, Kennywood Amusement Park tickets, movie tickets, and gift certificates. While guests were also entertained by a musical performance under the direction of, Trini Massie.

The event was free and open to the public to attend.



**TAKING NOTES**—Deroris Whitt of Homewood taking notes on some financial advise from one of the speakers.

