

## Betty Corwin

### Advisory Board Member

#### 2019

A memorial service was conducted on Monday, January 27 at the Actors' Temple on West 47<sup>th</sup> Street by the League of Professional Theatre Women (LPTW) to mourn the loss of its members who passed away in 2019. One distinguished such member was Club Advisory Board Member Betty Corwin, who died on September 10, 2019, just a few weeks shy of her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, at her home in Weston, CT.

Betty was the Founder and Director of the groundbreaking Theatre on Film and Tape Archive at The Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts. Her archive is considered one of the most important and vital resources in the theatre community. She was also the founder and producer of LPTW's Oral History Project, from which she retired only two years ago.

LPTW presented Betty with their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017. She received a special 2001 Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre for her efforts to archive theater performances at the Library. In accepting her Tony, she said, "I want to thank Marlon Brando, Laurette Taylor and the Barrymores, whose magical performances were lost forever the moment the final curtain fell. They instilled in me a passion to preserve the theater of the great artists of today."

In response to her invitation to join the Club's Advisory Board, Betty wrote to Chair **Gale Patron** on June 1, 2019: "I proudly accept your offer. The Club [was] a great success ... a haven for women eager to be part of the performing arts world."

Betty is survived by her daughter Pamela; two sons, Tom and John; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Her husband, Dr. Henry Corwin, passed away in 2006.

We were grateful for her support and are grieved by her loss. Her *New York Times* obituary and appreciation can be found [here](#).



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