KUSHNER, Dr. Gilbert, 76, died, May 30, 2010, in Tampa. Gil was born in
Bronx, N.Y., to Abraham and Sarah Kushner. He spent his early childhood
in Israel, then returned to New York, where he grew up. He graduated from
Bronx High School of Science in 1950, and obtained his Bachelor of Arts
degree from City College of New York in 1954. After serving in the U.S.
Army, he obtained his Master of Arts degree in anthropology from the
University of Arizona in 1958. Following doctoral studies at the University
of North Carolina, he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in
anthropology from the University of Arizona in 1968. Gil began his passionate and illustrious
career in anthropology as an instructor at the University of Houston in 1962, and then associate
professor at the State University of New York College at Brockport in 1968. He came to Tampa
in 1970 to join the department of anthropology at the University of South Florida, where he
served as chairperson from 1971 to 1985, and associate dean in the College of Social and
Behavioral Sciences from 1971 to 1978. He retired and was named Professor Emeritus in 1999.
Upon receiving the Sol Tax Distinguished Service Award from the Society for Applied
Anthropology in 2005, Professor Kushner was called "one of a very small number of
anthropologists who have been instrumental in providing for the institutionalization of applied
anthropology-major player in the rapid expansion of applied anthropology in our time, and a
key contributor to building the structures that ensure its continued prominence within the
discipline." Of Professor Kushner’s several contributions to the profession, none stands out so
clearly or incontrovertibly as does his career long dedication to the training and education of
applied and practicing anthropologists." As a result of his leadership at USF, Gil created and
implemented the field’s first master’s in applied anthropology in 1974, as well as the first PhD
in Applied Anthropology in 1984. These programs provided the template for the great variety of
applied training programs that exist today. Gil represented applied anthropology in numerous
professional associations, and was active in various community service organizations throughout
Tampa. Throughout his career, Professor Kushner contributed to the knowledge of the
anthropological discipline through his research and publications. His work consistently showed
the blending of a sense of humanity to the rigors of anthropological endeavor. A quality of
intellectual resourcefulness and sincere good will shows through clearly in one of his earliest
contributions, a critical analysis of the "administered community" in Israel (Planned Change in
an Administered Community: Immigrants from India in Israel, 1973) as it does in later
contributions to the understanding of cultural persistence, (Persistent Peoples: Cultural Enclaves
Professor Kushner wrote extensively on the institutionalization of applied anthropology, and the
development of applied training programs. His insights on these matters remain among the most
often cited in the available literature. Gil’s passion for life extended far beyond his career. He
loved to cook, enjoy good food, laugh, read, write, watch the Bucs and the Rays, listen to music,
play folk songs, and visit with his beloved family, friends, students and colleagues. He was
preceded in death by his parents, Sarah and Abraham Kushner, and his son, Jonathan Mark. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Lorraine Kushner; sister, Esther; sons, Andrew and David; daughters-in-law, Shelley and Sue; and granddaughters, Alyssa, Samantha and Mia. A funeral service will take place at 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 2713 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Gil's memory to LifePath Hospice, Development Department, 12973 N. Telecom Parkway, Suite 100, Temple Terrace, FL 33637, or the Tzedakah Fund in care of Congregation Rodeph Sholom. Online guestbook is available at www.segalfuneralhome.com