



Geraldine "Gerry" June Salvay

June 2, 1922 - December 22, 2018

Geraldine June ("Gerry") Salvay, 96, of Overland Park, KS, passed away Saturday, 22 December 2018 at Village Shalom, Overland Park, KS where she had resided since August 2013. Funeral services will be held at Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost, Kansas City MO at 10:30 a.m., Monday, 24 December 2018 followed by burial at Rose Hill Cemetery, 69th and Troost, Kansas City, MO. The family suggests contributions to the charity of one's choice.

Gerry was born 02 June 1922 at Bethany Medical Center in Kansas City KS to Solomon "Sol" Krigel (born in Dzyatlava, Hrodna Region, Belarus in 1892 and arrived in Kansas City in 1909) and Ruth Milgram (born in New York City in 1903 and came to Kansas City from the New York City area in 1905 with her parents, Bertha and Herman Milgram, immigrants from Chisinau [Kishinev], Romania, and her 10 older siblings).

Gerry loved to play piano and studied with her cousin, Dorothy (Krigel) Vile, and with Opal Eichler at what is now the UMKC Conservatory: She and her mother both had extraordinary musical ears and the ability to play or sing almost anything after only one listening. Gerry demonstrated independence and confidence early in life: Starting at age 8, she took the streetcar by herself most Saturdays from her home at 24th and State Avenue, Kansas City KS, to her father's jewelry store at 548 Minnesota Avenue to help him in his business. During high school, she had her first job away from the family jewelry store at The Lerner Shops, 31st and Troost. While a student at Kansas City University – now UMKC – she made time to teach Sunday school at Congregation Beth Shalom at the request of her beloved Rabbi Gershon Hadas.

Gerry formed lasting friendships. She and her Beth Shalom girlfriends, Mary Sonken, Dorothy Ingram, and Marian Hurst, formed a pre-confirmation "sorority" group "Phi-Rho-Eta" (the "PREs"); over the many years, these "girls" stayed in touch with one another. In high school, Gerry enjoyed a close friendship with Esther (Rosen) Singman, DeeDee (Goldberg) Cohen, and Eunice (Gershon) Rubin. In college, she met her dear friend, Geraldine "Gerry" (Peltzman) Silvers; the two Gerrys talked almost daily, and maintained a

caring relationship – “sisters,” as they would say – throughout their adult lives until Gerry Silvers died in 2009.

Gerry’s father encouraged her to get as much education as she could. With thinking that was well ahead of its time, Sol told her that women could accomplish anything they wished: This idea that education was important was regularly conveyed by Gerry to her sons and to her grandchildren.

Gerry was gifted in academics, especially mathematics, a subject studied by very few women of her era. She finished high school on her 16th birthday (1938), and earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Kansas City University on her 20th birthday (1942). She also earned certification to teach mathematics in all primary and secondary grades. After university, Gerry worked as head of a US Government financial-audit group in Kansas City; in the midst of that employ, Gerry’s father died (Nov 1944) following a long battle with diabetes. She immediately took on the additional responsibility of daily opening and closing Krigel’s jewelry store, and of keeping its books and records. Gerry was lovingly assisted by long-time loyal Krigel-family friend, employee and neighbor, Ella Wicker. Gerry said the experience of keeping her family’s business going taught her perseverance.

During WWII, Seymour Nathan Salvay was a civilian aerobatics instructor for the Army Air Corps (now US Air Force) in Coffeyville, KS. In September 1942, Nathan was invited to dinner at the home of Gerry’s aunt and uncle, Maime and Elias Krigel, whose daughter, Rose (Krigel) Krashin, suggested that Nathan call her cousin, Geraldine, when he was next in Kansas City. Nathan did just that...and after Nathan returned from his duties as Lieutenant and command pilot in the China-Burma-India theatre of WWII, Gerry and he were married on 20 January 1946.

As soon as Nate was discharged from military service in mid-1946, Gerry and he started and ran “Salvay Flying Service” at Richards-Gebaur Airport in Grandview MO; they used their two small airplanes for flight instruction and charter. In early 1948, after the birth of their first son, Steven, Gerry decided that she would stay home with the family...and that Nathan should find some more “down-to-earth” way to make a living than flying; he joined Milgram Food Stores. Gerry and Nathan raised their three sons, Steven, Craig and Brian, in the Leave-It-To-Beaver days of the 1950s and 60s, teaching each son the importance of wonder, kindness, generosity, and unconditional love.

While Gerry was active in civic and religious organizations – Congregation Beth Shalom, Hadassah, Menorah Medical Center, the Jewish Home for the Aged (now Village Shalom),

and PTAs at every school her sons attended – she chose to focus her life on her loving family and her cherished friends. She and Nathan were members of Congregation Beth Shalom’s first chavurah (“friendship group”), formed in 1956, a group that continued to meet until the early 2000s: Doris and Bill Edelman, Florence and Myrl Cohen, Doris and Paul Flam, Dorteia and Nate Jagoda, Mina and Sol Yarowsky, Tzivia and Joe Gaba, Jean and Norm Parmet, Teddy and Joe Oshiver. These and other longtime friendships were the hallmarks of Gerry’s life well lived.

Gerry recently summed up her life in these words: “I have had a wonderful and full life. I was encouraged early in my life to seek education in order to have more choices, and I encouraged my children and grandchildren to go as far as they could in academics. When I had the chance, I shared with my family and friends the wisdom I had gained from my own experiences in life. I have lived long enough to clearly understand that death is a part of life; we must accept those things that we cannot change, and continue living.”

Gerry was preceded in death by her (i) parents, Sol Krigel (1892-1944) and Ruth Milgram Krigel Bock Eisberg (1903-1996), (ii) step-fathers, Arthur Bock (1891-1956) and Sam Eisberg (1903-1990), (iii) loving husband, Seymour Nathan Salvay (1916-2009), and (iv) beloved sons, Steven Howard Salvay (1948-2004) and Brian Allan “Boruch” Salvay (1953-2015), (v) brother and sister-in-law, Edwin and Barbara “Babs” (Oppenheimer) Krigel; brother and sister-in-law, Richard “Dick” and Peggy (Paddor) Krigel; sister and brother-in-law, Phyllis and Lyle Rips; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Melvin Eugene “Gene” and Betty (Goodman) Salvay; step-brother, Joel Bock and his wife, Sandy (Silverman) Bock; step-sister Ann (Bock) Levine and her husband, Jess Levine, who was Gerry’s first cousin.

She is survived by her (i) son and daughter-in-law, Craig and Linda Salvay, of Prairie Village KS and their children: Rachel Anne Salvay of Denver CO, and Sarah Abigail (Salvay) Gallardo (husband, Bob, and their children: Nicholas Giovanni, Jacob Solomon, Christian Anthony and Vivian Margaret) of Lafayette CO, (ii) daughter-in-law, Helen Schwartz Salvay (widow of son, Steven) of Castle Rock CO and her children: David Marshall Salvay (wife, Erica) of Irvine CA, and Miriam Jean (Salvay) Shwartz (husband, Gilad, their children: Sivan Amali and Kol Dov) of Larkspur CO, (iii) daughter-in-law, Loretta “Miriam” (Goodman) Salvay (widow of son, Brian) of Woodridge NY, and her eight children: Naftoli Pesach Salvay (wife Sarah; children Shirel Leah, Meira Batya, Moshe Chaim, Tahila Bracha and Aviel Yosef Aharon) of New Hempstead NY; Yosef Eliyahu “Joe” Salvay of Woodridge NY; Binyomin Eliezer Salvay of Woodridge NY; Naomi Shira Fruma Salvay (daughter, Talia Shira) of Woodridge NY; Shmuel Yissochor Dov “Sam” Salvay (wife Lauren) of Wallkill NY; Levi Zechariah Salvay (wife Chana Rochel; children Yosef Asher, Yehuda Aryeh, Shira Nechama and Eliyahu Yitzchok) of Waterbury CT; Yisroel Meir

Salvay of Woodridge NY; Esther Manya Salvay of Woodridge NY; (iv) by step-sisters, Judy (Eisberg) Hellman (husband, Lloyd) and Marcia (Eisberg) Rittmaster (husband, Larry); (v) and by her AFS exchange-student son from Chile, Carlos Perez (wife Susanna) of Bayshore NY and their family.

She is also survived by her loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Gerry's family is grateful to her daily companions, Meron "Merry" Heramo and Yirgalem Yemer — Gerry's "angels" — for their loving attention to Gerry in the last year of her life, and to the nurses and assisted-living staff at Village Shalom for their patient and attentive care.

Events

DEC **Shiva** 06:00PM
24

Village Shalom

5500 W. 123rd St, Overland Park, KS, US

Comments



“ I met Gerry and Nathan in 1969 as i arrived to the U.S. when i was 18 I was very lonely and not knowing any one --having become close friends with Steve at KU, i automatically became another brother and a son, spending ample amount of time with the family, going to Kansas City often specially during all Jewish and secular holidays.

I have too many sweet memories to fit in this memo, they were my family away from home to the very last minute , always being in touch . They were at my wedding 30 years ago and many other occasions.

This is why i am heart broken not being able to attend the funeral or be at the shiva. May her beautiful soul rest in peace.

BARUCH DAYAN EMET

EZRI NAMVAR - December 27, 2018 at 02:19 PM



“ What a wonderful BIO, Craig. As you already know, I considered Gerry a really "special" friend. In 1943, when I was 13, she was then a lot "older", maybe 20 or 21. Rabbi Hadas had awarded the task of teaching our class. She taught us well, and we were orderly than we might have been, if the teacher were not so very attractive! And she wore the largest, prettiest "Shabbat" hat that I have ever seen. I did not measure it, but I'd bet that it was 18" diam. May her memory always be a blessing

M J Rosenbloom (aka Maynard Rosenbloom)

M J ROSENBLOOM - December 26, 2018 at 04:55 PM



“ To the Salvay family,
Gerry was a beautiful, wonderfully caring lady. She was the best neighbor, always having kindness for all. May her memory be for a blessing.
Nancy and Gary Minsey

Nancy Minsey - December 26, 2018 at 12:18 PM



“ May her memory be for a blessing.

Rocky Peltzman - December 25, 2018 at 06:21 AM

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“ I have fond memories of both your mother Gerry and your father Nathan from Forman family reunions.. It was a pleasure to know them. My deep sympathy to you and all your family

Sherlynn Woolfson Matesky

Sherlynn Matesky - December 24, 2018 at 11:06 AM



“ We always enjoyed visiting with Gerry when we would go to village shalom. My grandma (Betty Brand) sometimes would have lunch with her. May Gerry's memory be for a blessing. Sending hugs to her family.
-Shira, Jeremiah, Eitan, Samantha, Toba and Stephen

Shira Wajcman - December 24, 2018 at 09:35 AM



“ We want to express our deepest sympathy to you on your loss.

Leonard Glass and Ann. Stern

leonard Glass - December 23, 2018 at 05:23 PM



“ It was my honor and pleasure to meet Gerry on my first day to move into Village Sholom. She was a sincere and pleasant neighbor for the past 6 or 7 years we shared our time here. i could always abide by her advice. I will miss her very much, She led a sad and difficult life with the loss of two sons, but she carried on and was always pleasant to me. She will always be missed my me and my children.

Richard A Optican - December 23, 2018 at 05:22 PM



“ We will always cherish the beautiful memories of Gerry Salvay

Merry - December 23, 2018 at 05:13 PM



“ Dear Craig and Linda, I was sad to read that Gerry had died. The obituary was beautiful and certainly captured all her wonderful attributes, but then anyone who knew Gerry knew how special she was. Our family always felt close to her, to Nate, and to you. Rose, Tibor and I always admired and appreciated her love of music, learning, and Judaism, which she passed down to the next generation. We know her

memory will always be for a blessing. Sending you our deepest condolences and love. HaMakom Y"nachem Etchem. Carla Klausner

Carla and Tibor Klausner - December 23, 2018 at 11:57 AM



“ Craig and Linda we are so sorry for the loss of your dear mother. She was a wonderful lady and did much to further the Congregation Beth Shalom.
Herb and Barbara Simon

Herbert Simon - December 23, 2018 at 12:24 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.
Rochelle Barash

Rochelle Barash - December 22, 2018 at 11:17 PM



“ I always thought of Gerre as a Grande Dame, and after reading her obituary, I think so more than ever. She bore her hardships and losses, and although you knew she felt them deeply, she didn't let that interfere with her relationships or appreciation of what was good in her life. Mark joins me in remembering the bond of friendship between our parents, as well as expressing sorrow at the passing of this last survivor. Solace and best of memories wished for Craig, Linda, and the entire family.

Karin Lichterman and Mark Edelman - December 22, 2018 at 08:04 PM



“ Craig and Linda, so sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. I enjoyed visiting with her at Erlene and Sandy's house. You were a wonderful son. May she rest in peace

Annette Haynes - December 22, 2018 at 05:03 PM



“ We are sincerely sorry to hear of the passing of you dear mother and grandmother. She was smart, funny, a good friend of my parents. May her memory be for a blessing.

Marc and Leslee Price - December 22, 2018 at 04:32 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. I remember Gerry and her contributions to any program I did at village shalom. Such an intelligent lady who will be missed by her family and friends. May her memory always be treasured by all
Marlene Katz

marlene katz - December 22, 2018 at 03:45 PM



“ Craig & Linda. I did not know your mother but wanted to pass on our condolences to you both on your loss. The bio of the family history was amazing. May her memory be for a blessing. Aaron & Shelley Rissien

Aaron Rissien - December 23, 2018 at 05:20 PM



“ Walter Fink lit a candle in memory of Geraldine "Gerry" June Salvay



Walter Fink - December 22, 2018 at 03:30 PM



“ Gerry was a gracious lady and always made you feel comfortable being around her. I admired her involvement in Beth Shalom Sisterhood, especially Torah Fund. May her memory be for a blessing.

Rickie Haith - December 22, 2018 at 06:47 PM