



Hedy Reeds

March 26, 1923 - February 19, 2019

Hedwig "Hedy" Reeds passed away peacefully at Bishop Spencer Place on February 19, 2019 in Kansas City, MO. She was 95.

Ms. Reeds was born on March 26, 1923 in Vienna, Austria to Markus and Stella Neumann. She had a large extended family in Austria and Poland, most of whom perished in the Holocaust. She escaped by emigrating to England alone at age fifteen in February 1939. Her parents last wrote to her from Ukraine in 1942. Her brother Otto settled in England, where he practiced medicine. He died in a sailing accident in 1964.

Hedy graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Russian and earned a master's degree in German from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. In 1946, she married James Reeds, a Kansas City native who served in the U.S. Army in Europe, where, as part of the Monuments Men, he helped recover art stolen by the Nazis. He received a PhD in linguistics from the University of Michigan. The Reedses settled in Kansas City where they both taught at UMKC for many years. After she retired, Hedy continued to teach German to private students. When Jim became ill, she moved to Bishop Spencer Place to be near him.

Hedy's lifelong passions were classical music and travel. As a girl, she aspired to be a concert pianist. She took pride in playing once at the Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna. Years later, her piano playing brought joy to the other residents and the staff at Bishop Spencer.

Ms. Reeds is survived by her son and daughter in-law, James and Karen Reeds of Princeton, New Jersey; her daughter, Susan Ellman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; her niece and nephew and their children. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Reeds.

Ms. Reeds was buried by her husband's side in a private ceremony on February 21, 2019 in Lawrence, KS. A memorial gathering to celebrate her life is being planned. In lieu of

flowers, the family would appreciate donations to HIAS, Amnesty International, or any charity reflecting her humanitarian ideals.

Cemetery

Oak Hill Cemetery

1605 Oak Hill Ave.

Lawrence, KS, 66044

Events

FEB **Graveside** 12:00PM

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Oak Hill Cemetery

1605 Oak Hill Ave., Lawrence, KS, US, 66044

Comments



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Louis Memorial Chapel - February 25, 2019 at 12:50 PM



“ I will always remember Hedy's percolating laugh. She was a member of the German Table at the Nelson-Atkins Museum. Initially she and Jim both came and it was fun to exchange special Austrian words to teach the rest of the German (as opposed to Austrian) crowd. I posted a picture of her visit to the museum to see the exhibition on the 'Monument Men'. After the exhibition she received the large photo of Jim, which had pride of place in her assisted living apartment. I will always have fond memories of her.

Elisabeth Batchelor

Elisabeth Batchelor - February 22, 2019 at 01:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Elisabeth Batchelor - February 22, 2019 at 12:26 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Louis Memorial Chapel - February 21, 2019 at 09:44 AM



“ Hedy was extremely excited about getting a Yamaha grand piano in her living room! She wanted to share her joy and asked me to play something for her. She also shared stories with our UMKC Book Club, always adding sparkle and wit to our meetings. After she moved to Bishop Spencer Place, she hosted one of our book club meetings there. Her smile was genuine and showed her deep interest in each person she met. I am grateful to have known Hedy. ~Marian Thomas

Marian Thomas - February 20, 2019 at 08:05 PM