



## Jane Rieger Krakauer

September 5, 1925 - October 1, 2014

Jane Rieger Krakauer, 89, a native Kansas Citian, died Wednesday, October 1, 2014. Born on September 5, 1925, she was the daughter of Nathan and Dorothy Ludwig Rieger and the granddaughter of Leo and Fannie Metzger Ludwig and Alexander and Mollie Weinberger Rieger. She was the great-granddaughter of Jacob and Mary Rieger and Julius Ludwig.

Jacob and Alexander Rieger were in the wholesale liquor business in Kansas City from 1887 until the 18th amendment (Prohibition) was passed. At the end of the 19th century J. Rieger and Co., at 1529 Genessee, was the largest wholesale mail order whiskey house in the U.S. After Prohibition went into effect, Alexander started the Home Trust Company, which evolved into Mercantile Bank, the leadership of which passed to his son, Jane's father, Nathan Rieger. Alexander also was the Czechoslovakian Consul for Kansas City. Nathan and Dorothy Rieger were founders of, and active in, a broad range of Kansas City organizations. Julius Ludwig and Leo Ludwig, Sr., were jewelers in St. Louis and Kansas City. Leo Ludwig, Sr., was with Edwards and Sloane, which became Edwards, Ludwig and Fuller Jewelry in Kansas City.

Jane attended Notre Dame De Sion, then E.C. White Elementary School and she relished her fond memories of her time at both schools. She achieved a fine academic record at Westport High School, where she also was voted a beauty queen and served as president of The Pundit Literary Society. She attended Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York.

In 1943, at age 18, Jane became buyer for the Women's Department at Rothschild's Women's and Men's Store at 10th and Main. In June, 1946, she married Kenneth Krakauer, to whom she was married for 55 years, until his death in 2001. Of her husband she said no other man was his equal. For several years, she served as an assistant store manager at Adler's, the Adler-Krakauer chain of women's clothing stores.

Jane helped start the Planned Parenthood Richard Cabot Clinic. She served on the Kansas City Mental Health Association Board for 20 years. She also served on the Menorah Medical Center Auxiliary Board, having volunteered there for 46 years in many different capacities, beginning as a teenager changing the sheets on patients' beds and rolling bandages for soldiers during WWII. She was the longest-serving Donations

Chairman at the Menorah Auxiliary, having carried out this work with pride, pleasure and exquisite handwriting for decades. Jane spent five years volunteering in Menorah's Oncology Department. She was a member of The Temple, Congregation B'nai Jehudah, having been confirmed by the esteemed Rabbi Samuel Mayerberg, and was a member of The New Reform Temple and Oakwood Country Club. She supported many charities in the Kansas City area.

Jane was a voracious reader who operated her own informal private lending library. She relished socializing with her wide circle of friends. She counted among those friends several with whom she remained close from her very early childhood to her death. People of all ages and all walks of life sought her company. She was a genuinely sympathetic listener but also delighted in being devilishly outrageous. Jane was always impeccably coifed, made-up, dressed fashionably, perfumed and accessorized, even alone at home and to her last day at Village Shalom.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, her son, Rex Rieger Krakauer, her nephews, Tom Rieger and Fred Goldman III, her sister Mitzi Rieger Goldman, and her brother James Ludwig Rieger. She leaves her daughter and son-in-law, Randee Krakauer Kelley and Michael Kelley, of Prairie Village, KS, and two beloved grandsons, Eli Jordan Greif and Tyler Randall Greif, both of New York City. The family deeply appreciates the extraordinarily tender care Jane received from the staff at Village Shalom.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to: Kansas City Hospice and Palliative Care, 1500 Meadow Lake Parkway, Suite 200, KCMO 64114, or Village Shalom, 5500 West 123rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66209, or the Rex R. Krakauer Fund at Williams College, 880 Main Street Williamstown, MA 01267, or the American Cancer Society, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, KCMO 64105. As Jane would say, now go read a good book!

A memorial service will be held at 2:30pm Sunday, October 5, at The New Reform Temple, 7100 Main, Kansas City, MO., with a gathering for family and friends at its conclusion, also at The New Reform Temple.

# Comments

---



“ I am at Village Shalom every Sunday for bingo with my mother; your mom sat at the same table with us most Sundays. She was a pure delight to be with -- I realized this morning that I hadn't seen her for a few weeks, so asked about her and was so sorry to hear of her death. May her memory be a blessing for all who had the joy of knowing her.

**Jan Sokoloff Harness** - November 02, 2014 at 02:53 PM

---



“ Randee, it was with sadness that I read of your Mom's passing. You will always have the wonderful memories of your lifetime. Alan Cohn

**Alan Cohn** - October 11, 2014 at 08:17 PM

---



“ Dear Randee,  
I had the pleasure of meeting your beautiful mother over the years when I began my career at Adler's many years ago. She was always so kind, gracious and impeccable. She left an indelible memory of a perfect lady. May her memory be a blessing to you and your family.

Anita Chaplick

**Anita Chaplick** - October 07, 2014 at 12:53 PM

---



“ Randee and family,  
I will miss Jane, and her big personality! She was very special to me, and I know you will have a big void to fill. Enjoy the memories!

Kathy Sobba (nurse at Village Shalom)

**Kathy Sobba** - October 06, 2014 at 09:27 AM

---



“ Jane was an incredible person and was deeply loved by every one of us at Bruce Smith Drugs. We always looked forward to seeing her and frequently enjoyed her sassy sense of humor. It was both an honor and a pleasure to have had her in our lives. She will be missed by each and every one of us.

The Staff of Bruce Smith Drugs

**Penny Carminucci** - October 03, 2014 at 02:54 PM

---



“ Randee..I was so sorry to hear about your Mother's passing. This is a hard passage but the good news is that they really never leave us! You will hear her voice and laughter long after you really cant see her or be with her. I know you were a devoted daughter and she was lucky to have to you all those wonderful years. I am sending my love to you at this difficult time. Susan Kopperman Ross

**Susan Kopperman** - October 03, 2014 at 08:17 AM

---



“ Randee, I was so sorry to hear about Jane today. I learned so much about her after reading her obit in the paper. What an interesting and accomplished woman she was. I remember watching her read the newspaper, as she wanted to keep up with the news and try to be current. May you and your family find peace and serenity. Marlene and Mike Fishman

**marlene fishman** - October 02, 2014 at 09:19 PM

---



“ We loved having Jane in the salon at Village Shalom each week! She was so much fun in the beauty shop and would hang around giving us all a good laugh! What a beautiful lady; she will be missed!! So sorry for your loss, Juli Gannon

**Juli Gannon** - October 02, 2014 at 05:01 PM

---



“ Randee Please accept our most heartfelt sympathy for the passing of your mother. I remember you speaking of her so very often. May your wonderful memories of the past help you endure the future without her.  
Most Fondly,  
Marcia and Mel Paul

Marcia Paul - October 02, 2014 at 01:29 PM

---



“ I first met Jane when Ken brought her over to meet my parents (Cece and Norty) to say they were getting married. Jane was probably under 20 years old and so beautiful. I was invited to the wedding and it was just thrilling. I was 12. I never stopped loving Jane or Ken, or you Randee. Love. Nancy Sachar (dictated to Sally Sachar)

Nancy Sachar - October 02, 2014 at 10:41 AM

---



“ Sorry to hear of your mothers passing. I always loved seeing her when I visited my mother in her unit. I loved her spunk! What a beautiful lady! She will be missed!

Karyn Erlich Weiner



Jeffrey Weiner - October 01, 2014 at 09:58 PM

---



“ I shall feel Jane every time I need a warm smile, a hug and that welcome glint in her eye. I only met her a short time ago but I feel as I have known her all my life and sorry that she wasn't a part of it much sooner. I can never again look at a Scrabble tile and not see her determination to do it herself! She was beautiful inside and out. I shall miss her very much.  
Sandi Lerner

Sandi Lerner - October 01, 2014 at 07:17 PM

---



“ I've had a candle lit for Jane for the past two days thinking and praying for her. Jane was my smart beautiful cousin who was so very kind to my mom in her elder yrs. I remember sleeping over at Ken and Janes when I was a young girl. Playing with Randee and Rex. These are good memories. Later in our lives Jane and I would have good phone conversations and laugh a lot. I miss her. My heart goes out to Randee, family and friends for their loss. Jane's memorie will live in our hearts and minds.  
Sending Love,  
Lucy Ludwig Oxenhandler

lucy ludwig oxenhandler - October 01, 2014 at 06:40 PM

---



“ Jane was the spunkiest member of our weekly Scrabble group at Village Shalom! Everyone appreciated her frequent commentaries on her lousy letters or someone else's fantastic word!!  
I wheeled her back after each game, and she always apologized for my long walk to return her to her apartment! I assured her that it was a great part of my Monday exercise regimen!! She would laugh and always thank me heartily!!  
She was also generous with compliments, reminding me that she "knew clothes/style"!!! Once when I asked her how she could read so many books she said "well, what else do I have to do?!"  
  
We will miss her terribly!! Love you, Jane!!  
The Scrabble Group  
(Kathy Berger)

kathy berger - October 01, 2014 at 05:52 PM

---



“ I was so glad to know Jane. I want to thank the family for choosing Village Shalom so we could have a chance to meet her and get to know her from the beginning as THE reader and the rest of the time as the delightful, interactive participant in most every activity. She actually made the programs I was conducting more enjoyable to me. I, like everyone, will miss her very much. Dolores Reaves

Dolores Reaves - October 01, 2014 at 05:29 PM

---



“ Randee --

I was deeply saddened to learn of your Mom's passing.

I — like everyone who ever came in contact with her — have fond memories of her kindness, thoughtfulness and vibrant personality. She and your Dad were such a wonderful team.

My Jane's memory ever be for blessing.

Don Kasle -- Dove Canyon, CA

**Don Kasle** - October 01, 2014 at 04:42 PM