



RITA JOSEPHSON

December 26, 1928 - January 11, 2018

Rita Doris Seavey Josephson passed quietly Thursday evening in her home at The Atriums in Overland Park, Kansas, at age 89. Known for her colorful personality and loving attachment to family and friends, she was born in 1928 and lived a long and eventful life. The daughter of Bertha and Louis Seavey, she was born and grew up in Portland, Maine with a younger brother and among a large close-knit family of aunts, uncles, and cousins. Like many in her generation, her early experience of the Great Depression and World War II, made an indelible impression of enterprise and frugality. Her parents ran Seavey's, Maine's only kosher delicatessen, where Rita worked every day after school, although not always happily. An excellent student, Rita won the Brown Medal upon graduation from Portland High School, although she was unable to attend college, a fact she regretted. She married Carl Mack in 1950 and had one son, David, in 1952. After her divorce she moved to Kansas City, Missouri where she met her second husband, Marvin Friedman, and married him in 1958. Marvin adopted David, and they had a son, Alan, in 1959. After the boys grew, Rita took advantage of her life-long love of antiques and jewelry to start and successfully run Maine-ly Things, which came to specialize in antique jewelry, many purchased during family trips to Maine in the summer, and sold in antique shows throughout the Midwest. She developed many loyal customers who became friends and awaited her next show in their area.

She divorced Marvin in 1982 and married Frank Josephson, the man who was to be the love of her life, 1983. Frank and Rita both retired shortly after marrying and kept up a very busy schedule of social life, community work and travel around the world. They enjoyed Frank's daughter, Nan, and her family, and frequently babysat her son, Bryan. They developed a network of friends through their travels, including a large group in Rum, Austria, where they frequently spent summers. In their later years, they became proud grandparents of Sebastian, the son of Alan and his wife Gosia. Rita and Frank lived in the same house in Kansas City until they got sick in 2012 and moved to assisted living. Frank miraculously survived an aortic aneurysm, but died of complications in 2014. Rita is survived by her sons, David and Alan Friedman of Fleming Island, Florida and West Lafayette, Indiana; her step-daughter, Nan Josephson and husband Rick Bailey and son Bryan Bailey of Prairie Village, Kansas; by David's wife, daughter, and grand-daughter,

Rose Ann Friedman of Fleming Island, Ashley Callahan and Olivia Friedman of Austin, Texas, by Alan's wife and son, Gosia Friedman and Sebastian Friedman of West Lafayette. Her brother, Allan Seavey, of Aventura, Florida, predeceased her.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00am Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO. Interment will be at Sheffield Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Ohev Shalom, 5311 W. 75th St., Prairie Village, KS 66208 or Congregation Shaarey Tphiloh, 400 Deering Ave, Portland, ME 04103.

Events

JAN **Shiva**
15

06:30PM

at The Atriums, 7300 W. 107th St., Overland Park, KS 66212
KS, US

Comments



“ David, My condolences to you and your brother. I have fond memories of our friendship at UMKC and also of the couple of trips I took with your mom to the east coast. May she rest in peace Annette Goldenberg Haynes

Annette Goldenberg Haynes - January 15, 2018 at 11:23 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Rita while she lived on the second floor at The Atriums. She was always an engaging personality and eager to participate in our exercise sessions. She was delightful, knowledgeable, and easy to engage in lively conversation. She will be missed by many and may her memory be for a blessing.

Sincerely, Madeline Silver



Madeline Silver - January 15, 2018 at 07:02 PM



“ Sincerest condolences to Nan and the rest of the family. I met Rita back in 1978 when she was with Marvin, and I was her mailman for a total of 33 years. After Marvin came Frank, and he was one of the nicest people you could meet. I sure enjoyed having them on my route, and they always treated me wonderfully. I talked to Rita countless times over the years, and she was pleasant and always had a good attitude. May you rest in peace!
I mentioned you, Nan, because you're the only one of the family that I ever remember meeting, outside of Frank and Rita. So sorry to all of you for your loss.

Billy Williams

Billy Williams - January 15, 2018 at 03:07 PM



“ Wow, I knew Rita as long and as far back as my parents and grand parents. I never "met" Rita. She was just always part of the family. We have pictures of my mom Pregnant with me standing next to Rita. Heck theres a pictures of me as a little thing in her arms.

I have so many memories, so many. I was so honored to have been one of the two people to sign Her and Franks Katuba. Her Sharp wit and accent, I just could not have a conversation with her without cracking a smile. I knew David but really my brother and I spent many dates playing with Alan. Just so many memories. I remember her house, I remember my uncle buying it.

From birth Rita would come and visit my grandparents "mr. and Mrs S she would call them. Rita was a force of nature and She will be missed.

I have NO idea how I am going to tell my mom. They were more than lifelong friends. My mom would speak to Rita on phone for hours. I mean hours. we would say, mom are you on with Rita? if she shook her head yes, then there was no point asking my mom anything. We knew the call would just keep going like the energizer bunny. Rita was part of our family and be missed as member of our family.

Allan Cohen - January 15, 2018 at 09:15 AM



“ Dear Family of Rita's.

I had the pleasure of driving Rita to various appointments as a volunteer driver for Jet Express. I always enjoyed lovely conversation with her and am so very sorry to learn of her loss. She will surely be missed by so many. May her dear memory always be for a blessing. With sincere sympathy, Joyce Zeldin

Joyce Zeldin - January 12, 2018 at 02:53 PM