



RUTH SHECHTER

September 7, 1921 - June 23, 2018

Ruth Shechter, 96, of Overland Park, KS, passed away June 23, 2018 in her home at Village Shalom. Ruth was born in Chicago where she met her future husband, Nathan Shechter. They were married for 65 years until his death in 2007.

As a Commissioner on the Kansas Commission on Civil Rights, Ruth worked tirelessly for adoption of the Kansas civil rights act, including equal and affordable housing in the Kansas City region. She was a member of several civil rights groups, including the Shawnee Mission Housing Council, which campaigned against housing discrimination, the Fairview Neighborhood Council in Olathe, providing Home Evaluation & Rehab to fight against urban renewal problems. She co-created the Greater KC Housing Information Center, pioneering the provision of housing counseling in Kansas City. She was a long standing member of Shawmet Homes, developing Parvin Estates, and served on the board of the Metropolitan Energy Center. With long time friend Al Brooks they created the KCMO Human Relations Department. And, she helped establish the national Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation/NeighborWorks America's Neighborhood Housing Services network.

Ruth is preceded in death by her husband, Nathan, brother Seymour Gates, sister-in-law Edith, Nathan's brother, Jack, and son-in-law Tim Lankford. She is survived by her children Jerry & wife Jennifer Logan, David & wife Gayle, Victoria, Judi, 5 grandchildren and 4 spouses, 8 great-grandchildren, 3 great, great-grandchildren and nephew, Floyd.

The family would like to thank Management of Village Shalom for years of support.

Funeral services will be Friday, June 29, 2018 at 11:00 am at The Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64131. Cremation to follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Rose Brooks Center or Planned Parenthood of KC.

Events

JUN **Funeral** 11:00AM
29

Louis Memorial Chapel

6830 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO, US, 64131

Comments



“ What can adequately be said about an amazing person? Ruth was a mentor to all of us - a fighter for women's rights, a fighter for the down trodden. Boy do we still need her. Ruth you are and will be greatly missed. We were all lucky to have you in our lives.

Ruth was my mom's dearest friend. She was someone I admired and respected deeply. I remember Ruth at a recent Seder at the house when she steered everyone towards the progressive understanding of how Seder is still relevant as a reminder to cherish freedom. I remember when she and my mom went to Puerto Vallarta and my friend there welcomed these two vibrant women. My friend was so impressed with Ruth!

I share with the family my deepest and sincerest condolences. The world is a better place because of Ruth. We just have to continue to honor her work and strive for what is right.

Shelley Kaufman



Shelley Kaufman - June 29, 2018 at 02:45 PM



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Love to everyone.

Shelley Kaufman



Shelley Kaufman - June 29, 2018 at 02:25 PM



“ Others may have more adequately summed up the essence of what Ruth was and indeed IS in this entire metropolitan area and well beyond , She was a constant voice urging us all on to full empowerment of women, civil rights and justice for all, and especially in her work for all that seems worthy now in this community, especially knocking down racial, ethnic and housing barriers. throughout every part of the Kansas City Metro. And when I say knocking them down, she did so often without thought for herself, but always with a quiet, natural grace and dignity that we remember so well.

Yes, I agree she wanted all to teach her gentile friends and long time advisers to know the mysteries of the Seder and meaning and tradition of sitting Shiva (as I was privileged to do at the one the family held for Nate) . I often came away wondering who was advising who, since there was and IS so much true love , compassion openness and sharing honesty, and yes intelligence, charm, wit , perceptiveness of this soul who lives on in her entire family, and all the lives she touched. Without a doubt one of the bravest persons I have ever known. I thought I knew all the history and story of this woman from having the rare privilege of serving her and Nate for decades, but her 90th birthday celebration event showed the love this entire metro and ALL of its people had and have for her.

Since a tribute seems so little to do, we will do much more in her honor. and with deepest sympathy for her family and other friends . The best tribute is, as Gary put it ,to go forth in truth , love and justice.

Bob and Joyce Vancrum, Overland Park, KS.

Robert J. Vancrum - June 29, 2018 at 10:32 AM



“ Ruth's life was one of compassionate service, optimism, activism, and unconditional love for her fellow men and women. I cannot remember when or where I first met Ruth--perhaps at a Democratic meeting of some importance, but her dynamic personality and active participant in life and in meaningful change will be a memory I will long cherish. My life was north of the Missouri river in Clay County, but my interests were bi-state and local government and philanthropic endeavors. I served on a school board, state legislature, and county government--but being with Ruth at any time was like being with a dynamic electrical current of energy and thought -- watching her walk the walk and putting those thoughts into action. I loved her in so many ways--but I admired her diligent spirit no matter what her age. She was a force! She never gave up on her goals of making this world a better place for all of us. Her circle of influence had to be global!

God bless you, Ruth. Thank you for being my friend.

Sandra Reeves



Sandra Reeves - June 28, 2018 at 11:13 AM



“ BDH - I was so saddened to learn of Ruth's passing. What a dynamic trailblazer she was and a mentor to me in so many activities. I shall always remember her with such fondness as well as admiration. She was a giant of a woman in our community when there were far too few. Her memory should truly serve as a blessing.

Felicia Weiner - June 27, 2018 at 03:13 PM



“ It was a true honor and privilege to have known Ruth. I loved her tenacity and dedication to ensuring that others in need were empowered, not just that their needs were met. She was graceful and humble and I just enjoyed the opportunity to listen to her share stories about her trailblazer work. Ever humble though, she wasn't bragging, just sharing how things were and why she felt it important to get involved. I thank you for your wisdom. You will be greatly missed by many.

Kimber Myers Givner
Phoenix Family

Kimber - June 27, 2018 at 02:09 PM



“ Judi: I’m sorry for your loss. May her memory be a blessing. Eli Fish

Eli Fish - June 26, 2018 at 07:42 PM



“ I too am saddened to hear of Ruth's passing. I knew her well as a young man and learned a great deal from her about America, about Judaism, about Joe Louis (; -), and about justice. I also learned how to laugh at life's follies, even how to laugh at myself from time-to-time. I loved her and all she stood for, loved her children, and the home she opened up to me as a boy. It was Ruth and her daughters who introduced this awkward gentile kid to the secrets of the Seder and to big, warm-hearted Jewish family wisdom. I have missed her, missed her whole great circle, but Ruth and all of them, all of YOU live on in my heart. Bless her. Bless you all. Love, Stephen Molton

Stephen Molton - June 26, 2018 at 12:02 PM



“ Please give our love and condolences to the family of Ruth Shechter. From the family of Warren Molton.

Mary Diane Molton - June 26, 2018 at 10:13 AM



“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Ruth's passing. Ruth Shechter was a giant warrior for justice. She was an example of Judaism's fundamental belief in Tikkun Olam, to repair the world. She lead by example, she did all that one human could possibly do to pursue fairness, justice and equality. She possessed the energy of 10 but often produced the output of 100. I count myself as very fortunate to have been mentored by Ruth. She will remain an example of the best one soul can accomplish in life. May her family revel in the joy of their memories and stories of her many battles for justice.

Gary Blumenthal - June 26, 2018 at 09:42 AM



“ When we encounter a rare and exceptional person, unless we are too distracted or asleep, they somehow move us, and later we ponder that moment. This strong intelligence, obviously committed person was one of those souls who carry the weight of moral responsibility for the rest of us. Even without knowing their contribution we are forced to engage. Ruth is that person, and she should not, and cannot be ignored. How many of us can say we have done even a fraction of the work that she has done? Now she leaves us the moral, and ethical responsibility, by her example, to continue in any small or great way. Historically now and historically once again, more than ever. Thank you Ruth.

Avritt Lemon-Brown - June 25, 2018 at 07:46 PM



“ Ruth's dedication to justice was an inspiration and role model to so many. May her memory be a blessing and her family be comforted. Alan Edelman

Alan S Edelman - June 25, 2018 at 11:17 AM