

Ruth Schwager Obituary



1912 ~ 2013

The world has lost one of its truly gentle souls. Ruth Schwager died on October 9, 2013. She was born on April 27, 1912 in Augsburg, Germany to Arthur and Clara Teutsch, the second of three children. Ruth grew up in severe conditions resulting from the aftermath of World War I. She married Joseph Schwager on March 25, 1934 and a son, Peter, arrived on February 2, 1936. They were able to leave Germany in 1939 to escape from the Nazis; her parents were not so fortunate and perished in the Holocaust, which haunted her for the rest of her life.

After a 6 month stay in England, they received a visa and sailed the perilous U-boat infested waters of the Atlantic Ocean to arrive in New York City. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to rural Pennsylvania where Joe had rented a chicken farm. Before long, the family moved to Allentown, Pennsylvania, but left for Salt Lake City in 1944, where they joined Ruth's two brothers.

While Joe operated a small men's clothing store, Ruth supplemented the family income by working at Auerbach's department store and later as a weaving instructor for the Murray B. Allen Center for the Blind. In 1947 she began a 55 year association with the Pioneer Craft House as a weaving instructor. Joe died in 1964; after a lengthy period of mourning, Ruth decided to get a college degree and started studying at Westminster College. In 1970 she graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Art. As a graduation present, she treated herself to a 3 month tour of Central and South America, including a one month visit with friends in Argentina. This was just the first of many international travels she enjoyed.

Ruth found time to serve with Jewish Family Service, the American Association of University Women, and as a volunteer at Holy Cross Hospital. She also enjoyed volunteering at the yearly Passover wine sales at the synagogue.

Ruth lived to age 101 in her home. When she required more assistance, she moved to Silverado Senior Living for the final five months of her life. The staff at Silverado treated her with exceptional kindness. Dr. Fred Gottlieb provided compassionate care for many years and throughout her final days in hospice. Ruth is survived by her son, Pete. Funeral services will be held at Evans & Early Mortuary, 574 East 100 South on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 12:00 noon with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Montefiore Cemetery, 4th Avenue and R Street following the service.

In lieu of flowers, please make a generous donation to [your favorite charity](#) .

Condolences may be shared at www.evansandearlymortuary.com.

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