



Rita Toni (Brandstein) Wahle

February 25, 1935 - April 13, 2020

WORCESTER - Rita Toni (Brandstein) Wahle, age 85, died unexpectedly on Monday, April 13 at the Jewish Healthcare Center after a brief illness, comforted by the loving presence of her family.

Rita was born in Hamburg, Germany in 1935, the eldest daughter of Solomon and Esther (Riesel) Brandstein. In February of 1939, Rita and her sisters Ruth and Helen, accompanied by their mother, fled Germany on the S.S. Washington, one of the last ships to depart the port of Hamburg before the formal declaration of World War II. Miraculously, after arriving at Ellis Island they were met by Solomon, their family reunited.

Rita and her sisters grew up in the Bronx and attended Taft High School where Rita graduated early due to her academic achievement. She met and married the love of her life, Daniel Wahle, with whom she shared 26 years of a honeymoon marriage before Danny's untimely demise in 1980.

Rita pursued a career at the UMASS Medical Center, first in Human Resources and eventually becoming the Administrator of the Program of Medical Humanities. After her retirement, she became a regular volunteer at the Worcester Public Library, delivering meals for Rachel's Table, and in the office of the Yeshiva Achei Timimim.

Rita had a lifelong passion for learning, in particular literature and poetry. In 2012 she became a published author in the book "Our Stories – Our Lives", produced by the Writers Roundtable of the Eisenberg Assisted Living Residence. This included works of poetry and her personal memoir about being a Holocaust survivor. For many years, Rita enjoyed taking classes at Assumption College and Worcester State University. She was always anxiously waiting for her next W.I.S.E. class to begin. A longtime friend of Bill W., Rita was able to be a power of example for many.

Rita loved to travel, destinations including: England, France, Italy, St. Maarten, Bermuda and her beloved Israel as well as multiple trips to Disney with her granddaughters. She

had a lifelong love of the theater and classical music. She was never afraid to speak her mind or share her opinion on matters large or small.

Rita will be lovingly remembered and missed by her children: Mark Wahle and his wife Lynn Myers, of Sharon, Gay Koury and her husband Fred, of Worcester, and Bruce Wahle and his wife Ellen of Worcester; her cherished grandchildren: Danielle Lynn Koury and her boyfriend Robert Taylor, Amanda Leigh Kriebel and her husband Rob, Stephanie Michelle Koury, Alexandra Grace Koury and her fiancée Michael McConnell, and Daniel Lewis Wahle. She also leaves her sisters, Helen Chase of Worcester and Ruth Erlich of Charlton and many special nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Daniel Wahle.

Rita's family will gather privately at B'nai Brith Cemetery for a graveside funeral service under the direction of Miles Funeral Home of Holden. When permissible, a Memorial Observance will be announced, where we will be able to gather together and celebrate Rita's remarkable life.

Mark, Gay and Bruce would like to express their heartfelt appreciation to the staff of the Jewish Healthcare Center and the Eisenberg Assisted Living Residence for their loving care and compassionate dedication over the last ten years, as well as her friend Lisa who shared her love of Nancy Chang.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Jewish Healthcare Center, 629 Salisbury Street Worcester, MA 01609, the Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE), 500 Salisbury Street, La Maison, Room 203, Worcester MA 01609, Rachel's Table, 633 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Service Live Stream Link: <http://client.tribucast.com/tcid/34450599>

Cemetery

B'Nai Brith Cemetery

55 St. John's Road

Worcester, MA, 01606

Comments



“ Bruce and family I'm so sorry about the loss of your dear mother. May she rest under gods wings in eternal peace. I am Paula Freeman's. Sister Janet Freeman. Sending comfort and prayers..

Janet Freeman - April 18 at 06:40 PM



“ Dear Bruce, Ellen, and Danny:

I was very sorry to hear about Rita's passing. Please accept my deepest condolences and prayers.

Elana Gordon - April 15 at 11:16 AM



“ Please know we are thinking of you and holding you in our hearts. We remember your mom for the very special woman she was. Zelda and Paul Schwartz

zelda and Paul Schwartz - April 15 at 10:27 AM



“ Dear Gay, Fred and family,
So very sorry to hear of Rita's passing. There are so many fond memories I have of Rita from our UMass days, but what I admired most of all was her exuberant love for her family. May happy memories be ever present in your heart. In sympathy, Kathy & Rich Burgess

Kathleen Burgess - April 14 at 07:43 PM



“ Thinking of you at this sad time. Be comforted among the mourners of Zion & Israel. I am grateful for having known Rita.

Jonathan Heimberg - April 14 at 07:38 PM



“ Dear Bruce,

I am so sorry. Sending you peace and love... she was very blessed to have you as a wonderful son...

Be gentle with yourself, the death of your mom is like no other. She is the first person you knew and the first who knew you.

Pam Reidy..

Pam Reidy - April 14 at 04:58 PM



“ Rita was a wonderful friend and a loving cousin to my late husband Melvin Haber, MD. He had happy memories of their childhood growing up in the Bronx and was very glad to continue the relationship when we moved to Wethersfield, Ct. in 1970. The Haber/Wahle families met often to share holidays and special events. I will miss Rita as she was a dear friend who was always special to spend time with. I am saddened to learn of her sudden passing and send my deepest condolences to Helen, Bruce and the rest of her family. She will not be forgotten.
Sandi Haber Karpelowitz, Marc and Andrew Haber and their families

Sandi Haber Karpelowitz - April 14 at 03:07 PM



“ Nick and I are so sorry to learn of Rita's death. She was a warm and loving person.
From Bobbie Chase

Bobbie Chase - April 14 at 01:55 PM



“ Dear Bruce, Ellen, Danny, and Helen,

I was so sorry to hear of the passing of your Mom and Sister,.
Please know my thoughts are especially with you all at this time.

Fondly,
Emily Ritz Gerber

Emily - April 19 at 01:42 AM