



Andra Portugal Cohn

December 27, 1933 - January 19, 2019

Recently celebrating her 85th birthday, Andra Portugal Cohn -- beloved mother, grandmother, sister, friend, gifted artist, community and political activist -- began her next adventure Jan. 19, 2019. Born Dec. 27, 1933, in Brooklyn, NY, the daughter of Rose and Abraham Portugal, Andra earned a degree in political science from Brooklyn College and accepted a job at the United Nations. She met Maurice Cohn, a medical resident at Bronx Municipal Hospital. Following a whirlwind courtship, they married in 1957, and after Maurice's military service and specialty training in San Francisco and New Orleans, they moved to Austin in 1961 with their daughter Ronda.

Andra – a multi-talented entrepreneur -- blended her talents and social skills as a party planner, co-owner of a bagel business, tennis coach and representative for a line of designer tennis fashions. She built a rewarding mediation service while supporting her daughter's activities and husband's successful pediatric practice. She also pursued a passion for politics, working in numerous political campaigns, beginning with LBJ. Andra was a competitive tennis player and avid skier. She regularly attended UT basketball games, concerts, and she loved the movies. A talented artist, Andra's paintings have been represented in gallery showings and private collections. A fearless force of nature, she supported the arts, including opera, ballet, symphony and theatre. Andra traveled extensively, was a member of Brackenridge Hospital's Board and worked for children's charities. A lifelong Democrat, she was an activist in politics and for causes she felt strongly about.

Andra is survived by daughter Ronda Cohn Berton (Jon) of Atlanta, grandson Marshall Berton, sisters Jetta Meyerson of Long Island and Gail Fishkin of Queens, sister-in-law Marilyn Cohn Schwartz of Houston and many loving nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her devoted husband Dr. Maurice Cohn. She will be profoundly missed, and her earthly absence felt by many. A celebration of life is planned; please contact the family for details or Austin Natural Funerals.

Comments



“ With Andra's passing, Austin will never be the same...for in its history, this city has never felt the presence of a born-and-bred Brooklynite with such vivacious strength and tenacious wisdom. Bless the young physician from South Texas -- Maurice Cohn -- for bringing his young wife back to Texas, where she would work in athletics, politics, a variety of entrepreneurial ventures and the medical community throughout her life...and wherever she went, the power of this woman (before feminism was a trend) was felt -- in her volunteer work, the boards she served, the classes she taught and the parties she hosted. In my eyes, she was truly a renaissance woman, and while not everyone agreed with her opinions, whenever she spoke, people listened and valued her perspective. She and Maurice raised their daughter Ronda in their combined images-- to be the wise,compassionate, fun-loving, curious woman she is today, nurturing a life-long thirst for learning who is multi-talented and has the rare ability to be a true friend. May her life be as rewarding as those of her parents -- truly positive contributors to the vibrancy that has made Austin what it is today.

Alice Adams - March 10, 2019 at 01:56 PM



“ Rhonda, I'm so sorry to hear of Andra's passing. I reflect with fondness the many fun and unusual experiences we shared with our merchandising and travels to tennis shows and other places. Your mom was definitely one-of-a-kind, a true friend. I still have the "moon & stars" from your & Jon's wedding...time goes so fast, that seems like yesterday.
Please keep me updated with her life's celebration gathering and know that my prayers and thoughts are with you and all the family.
Sibyl (Leslie) Dyke

Sibyl Dyke - January 28, 2019 at 04:37 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear that Andra has passed. She was a force of nature and will be missed! I hope there will be a service in Austin.
Ann Koriath

Ann Koriath - January 27, 2019 at 11:38 AM