



Ruth Evelyn Wilensky Smiley

July 23, 1922 - March 6, 2019

Ruth Evelyn Wilensky Smiley passed away peacefully in Round Rock, Texas on March 6, 2019.

Ruth's memory will be a blessing to her family always. What an amazing woman of faith and fierce independence who has inspired so many along life's journey.

Ruth was born in Borough Park, NY on July 23, 1922. Her parents, Harry and Julia Wilensky, had 2 other children, Martin Winslow and Libby Scheuer, of San Francisco, CA. Ruth graduated from Hunter's College in New York City majoring in Child Development. Ruth married Seymour "Cy" Howard Smiley on March 17, 1945. The couple moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee with Cy's work in nuclear energy where they spent 22 years. They had two children, Jeffrey Lowell in 1947 and Sherrill Nan in 1950. Together they moved to Bethesda, Maryland in 1972. Seymour passed away in March, 1978. Ruth was always active teaching swimming at the YMCA and volunteering often at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. She was a lifetime member at Ohr Kodesh, avid adult education participant, and travel enthusiast. Ruth was an active grandmother to Sean and Julie, spending many Shabbat dinners and holiday meals laughing and enjoying family moments, and sharing all sporting and school events. Sean and Julie affectionately called her "Gammy". Family was of paramount importance to Ruth and she always strived to share Jewish life cycle events with her California cousins and relatives every chance she could.

Her life was active and full of friends at Riderwood in Silver Spring from 2004 until 2015. Her grandchildren, Sean and Julie Smiley, moved her to Round Rock, Texas in 2015.

Ruth is survived by her daughter Sherrill Nan Smiley of Redway, CA and grandchildren from her deceased son, Jeffrey Lowell Smiley (1947-1988): Sean Howard Smiley and Eve Anderson Smiley and 4 great-grandchildren, Jacob, Cy, Annabelle and Jeffrey Smiley of Round Rock, TX, granddaughter Julie Felice Smiley of Austin, TX, and daughter-in-law Minnie Spector Skinner of Fairhope, AL.

Ruth was an active volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Donations can be made in her honor at <https://donate.ushmm.org/6hRw6kqugUOvJLNKCibD1g2>. Please choose to notify sean2smiley@gmail.com of your donation.

The family would like you to join them for Brunch following the Graveside Service at:
GrillMarx Steakhouse
18149 Town Center Dr, Olney, MD 20832

Cemetery Details

Judean Memorial Gardens

16225 Batchellors Forest Rd
Olney, MD 20832

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 10. 11:00 AM (ET)

Judean Memorial Gardens
16225 Batchellors Forest Rd
Olney, MD 20832

Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Evelyn Wilensky Smiley*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *Ruth Smiley was one of my volunteers for the Jewish Information and Referral Services of the Federation of Greater Washington. Ruth was so delightful and she and her partner answered many questions of all kinds for over 10 years. I loved her sense of humor and her ability to catch on to using the computer and her diligence in finding the right answer for her caller. She was a lovely women and I miss her. May her memory comfort her family and friends. Sharon Doner-Feldman*

Sharon Doner-Feldman - March 11, 2019 at 07:29 PM



“ *Ruth, Martin, Libby and Grandpa Harry. The Wilensky's* 😊



Sean Smiley - March 08, 2019 at 10:20 PM



“ *So sorry to hear about Ruthie's passing. She was my mother Lorna's cousin via marriage to Cy (Cy was the son of Florence and Ben Smiley. Their daughter, Gladys, an adored high school teacher, died of a heart attack in her 30's). What I remember most vividly of Ruthie is her smile, her energy and her honesty. Ruthie, Cy, Jeff and Sherri and our family would meet up at a hotel called The Pines in the Catskill Mountains of NY. We did this for several summers - after they had moved to Oak Ridge. My mother and Ruthie were good friends. I also remember her coming to our house in Millburn, NJ when my older son Brian was just starting to learn the piano. She stood over his shoulder and helped him identify the notes. Brian became a talented musician and is not the Chair of the Music Department at University of North Carolina - Asheville. She was tough cookie and a special woman.*

Steve Felix - March 08, 2019 at 10:59 AM

JU

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Julie - March 08, 2019 at 10:52 AM

ES

“ From the minute I met Gammy I loved her. This picture was from Shabbat dinner when we very first met. There was something so special about her that made you look up to her while also feeling like she was a friend. Her eyes would light up when she talked to you, she had an amazing smile and such a witty sense of humor. Thankful for her life and being with her these last years. Love you forever, Gammy ❤️



Eve Smiley - March 07, 2019 at 10:22 PM

JU

“ So many stories and laughs shared. She was so quick witted!



Julie - March 07, 2019 at 09:40 PM

JU

“ Too many memories to share. So lucky to have had her for so many special times. In college she lived right down the street. My roommate and I hosted a shabbat dinner once and she came all dressed up. She made everything so special. This Pic was taken that night.



Julie - March 07, 2019 at 03:49 PM



“ *We loved having her here with us in Texas for her final years!*



Sean Smiley - March 07, 2019 at 03:35 PM



“ *Gammy never wanted to make a fuss about her. We had a big crowd of family and friends for her 90th birthday in 2012. Here she is blowing out her candles!*



Sean Smiley - March 07, 2019 at 03:28 PM