

OBITUARIES

PATRICIA A. McALLISTER

Patricia A. McAllister, 68, died Sept. 29 in Dearborn Heights. Mrs. McAllister was the owner of Pat's Day Care Service in Plymouth and a member of the Plymouth Vivians. She also enjoyed painting.

She is survived by husband, Robert; sons, Grant (Terrie) of Canton, Robert (Jeanne) of Farmington and Mark (Dilys) of Livonia; daughter, Lesley McAllister of Redford; aunt, Myrtle Galemeau of Warren; and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 3 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Douglas J. Bignall officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Alzheimer's Assoc., Detroit Chapter, 17251 W. 12 Mile Rd., Suite 109, Southfield 48076.

MARY LOUISE SMITH

Mary Louise Smith, 66, died Sept. 30 at Huron Village Hospital in Commerce Township.

A resident of Farmington Hills for 20 years, Mrs. Smith was a homemaker and the mother of three.

She is survived by husband, William; son, Wayne (Sharon) Humble of Corona, Mich.; daughter, Leah (Doug) Olson of Novi; brothers, Jack Lenox of California and Bill Waak of West Bloomfield; sister, Barbara Stevenson of Ferndale; and grandchildren, Ryan, Frederick, Miles and Brian.

Funeral services were held Oct. 4 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington. Arrangements made by Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

BERNARD E. MCPHIE

Bernard E. McPike, 70, died Sept. 27 at his home in Florida.

A former resident of Farmington, Mr. McPike was an insurance agent for All State and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II. He enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Elks Club.

He is survived by sons, Jeffrey and James; daughter, Linda; brothers, James and Richard; sister, Margaret Cummings; and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 2 and arrangements made by Family Funeral Care in Florida.

DON H. JOLICOEUR

Don H. Jolicoeur, 62, died Oct. 2 at his home in Farmington Hills.

Mr. Jolicoeur was a native of Windsor, Canada where he was active in his church and the Windsor Mental Retardation Association. He and his mother were instrumental in creating a hybrid rose

used to raise funds for the Mental Retardation Association.

His career brought him to the states in the early '60s. Mr. Jolicoeur was the treasurer of Friends and Relatives of University Place. He and his wife crusaded for group home development in Oakland County and were active in the Mental Health Community. Don was also vice president for Target Equipment Leasing, Inc.

He is survived by wife, Linda; sons, Martin and Timothy (Christine); daughters, Lisa (Jerome) Bushey and Michelle; brother, Raymond (Rosalee); sisters, Pearl Dube, Lorraine (Albert) Blanchette and Pauline (Thomas) Hale.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 6, at St. Fabian Church in Farmington Hills. Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

MARGARET T. POMEROY

Margaret T. Pomeroy, 88, died Oct. 2 at the Farmington Hills Hospice.

A resident of Farmington Hills and born in Toronto, Mrs. Pomeroy worked as a secretary from 1927-34. She was a volunteer for the Girl Scouts, an active member of the First Baptist Church of Birmingham and past president of the local chapter of Church Women United. She was also a board member of Planned Parenthood and a volunteer for Furness Resource Center of Pontiac.

In 1963 Mrs. Pomeroy was named Volunteer of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers, Oakland County Chapter.

She is survived by husband, Fraser; sons, David (Bonny) and Robert (Peggy); daughters, Kathleen (Donald) Beaudry and Mary Lu (Mack) King; nine grandchildren; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 6, at First Baptist Church of Birmingham. Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Alzheimer's Disease Research, 16826 Shady Grove Rd., Suite 140, Rockville, MD 20850; or Furness Resource Center, Tribute Fund 1730 N. Perry, Pontiac 48340.

PHLOMENA BROWNLEE

Phlomena Brownlee, 90, died Oct. 3 at Charter House of Farmington Hills.

She is survived by sons, Daniel and Thomas; daughter, Mary Lowrey; 16 grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 7, at St. Fabian Catholic Church in Farmington Hills. Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Retailer mixed warmth, fashion savvy

BY JUDITH DORNE BERNE

SPECIAL WRITER AND

SUSAN DEMAGGIO

STAFF WRITER

Family was everything to fashion retailer Rosalind Becker, whose funeral is today in Southfield.

In the past year, as Rosalind fought against the ravages of Parkinson's Disease, which eventually took her life on Oct. 1, she gave up participation in Roz & Sherm, saving her energies for her children, grandchildren and two sons-in-law.

That doesn't surprise former neighbors in the West Bloomfield neighborhood where she and Sherman, her husband and business partner, raised their family. There, Rosalind was as renowned for her warmth and hospitality as for her role in the creation and success of the acclaimed women's clothing boutique in Bloomfield Township.

"There were always a lot of kids at her house," recalls Janet Scott, who grew up across the street. "She was crazy about children. I remember her laughing a lot and being a very warm person. They had incredible pool parties. Everyone usually ended up in the pool with their clothes on."

Neighbor Alice Pranis remembers her sense of style and how Rosalind loved to cook. She recalls going straight to Rosalind when she was nervous about giving her first fancy party.

"Go out and get leaf lettuce," Roz told me. As long as you have enough leaf lettuce, you can do anything."

Then, working together, "we made up the most beautiful trays of food."

"A lot of people see her as a tycoon," Pranis said. "But there was such a warm side. When you were with her, her attention was on you. She made you feel so important."

It was this ability to focus on other people that Rosalind Becker tapped as she and Sherman created and grew Roz & Sherm and its offshoot, Hannah Rose, into meccas for cutting-edge fashion.

"She had tremendous instincts about people and completely related to them," Sherman said. "Everybody's got a key," she would say. She had a certain idea in mind of the customer she wanted to attract. And she knew what they would want to wear."

Longtime associate Don Thomas, of Don Thomas Sporthaus, a retail neighbor at Bloomfield Plaza at Maple and Telegraph, said the contributions that

Rosalind made to the local fashion scene should not be underestimated.

"She did a great deal for the northwest area of Detroit in terms of the wonderful fashions and marvelous people she and Sherm attracted to their store and this center," he said. "In their heyday, Rosalind's vision and fashion feelings took their shoe store into the big league, creating a women's clothing store that developed into something quite marvelous."

Farmington Hills-based retail analyst Fred Marx spent years attending the Beckers' famous fashion parties and grew to admire Rosalind's sense of style. "She was just so vital, so energetic, so in tune with what was hot and what would be," he said. "She never duplicated, always looked ahead, never played it safe. She could enhance anything. In the late '70s and through the '80s, the store was like a club for many regular customers who would drop in everyday to see what was new. Roz bought things no one else would, because she saw potential, she sponsored rising stars. She will be sorely missed by thousands of friends and customers, but luckily her niece, Annie Frank, is carrying on the traditions."

Ros Lerner of Beverly Hills worked on Roz & Sherm's advertising and was impressed by Rosalind's many facets. "One day she's in the kitchen cooking for the holidays. The next she's doing business with an Italian designer," he said. "I think of her as a Jewish grandmother decked out in Armani."

In fact, neighbor Pranis said she never saw Roz in blue jeans. "She was always more avant-garde. She had her own style and her style suited her perfectly. She was so confident in her own ability to see what was coming — and how to market it."



STAFF PHOTO BY JUDITH DORNE

Saying goodbye: A picture memorial of Rosalind Becker hangs in the display window of Roz & Sherm at Bloomfield Plaza.

Pranis hasn't seen nearly as much of the Beckers since they moved, first to an apartment in Southfield and more recently to a condominium in Bloomfield Township. "There are people who you don't see for a long time, but you know they're there and you rely on that," Pranis said. "Her death leaves an emptiness."

That, of course, will be truest for Sherman Becker, who says Roz was a positive force who always saw the bright side of any situation.

"It was a true partnership in every way — legally, emotionally. She was my soul mate."

Along with her husband Sherman, survivors include daughters Nancy Hitchcock, Andrea Miller and Paula, son Howard and three grandchildren.

Funeral services for Rosalind Becker are at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at Iru Kaufman Chapel, 18025 W. Nine Mile Southfield. Burial will be in Clover Hill Park Cemetery in Birmingham.

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