



Rita Faye Smith

November 1, 1935 - August 25, 2023

Rita Faye Minsky Smith, 87, of Dallas, Texas, passed away peacefully Friday, August 25, 2023.

Rita was born on November 1, 1935, to Nathan and Ida (Rachofsky) Minsky in Dallas, Texas.

After graduating from Highland Park High School in 1952 she went on to study Radio, Theater and Film earning her BFA at the University of Houston. Later – when her three daughters were teenagers – Rita earned an MA in Psychology from TWU in Denton.

Rita taught school for several years and then worked in sales – a more lucrative and egalitarian position for women in that era.

Throughout her life, she engaged in her passion for the theater. Whether as an actress in local community theater productions, as a theater critic for two local newspapers as well as an online theater review site, as a stand-up comic, or as a volunteer for local theaters and programs – her interest in

theater never waned. In her free time, she traveled to theater events and shows, both domestically and abroad.

While at U of H, she met Gerald Smith. They wed in 1956 and were married for 12 years. Their family grew quickly – three girls over the next several years.

Rita loved her daughters unconditionally and set an example for her girls of an independent woman who never accepted less than fair and equal treatment.

She educated and raised her daughters in the Jewish faith, all attending Temple Emanuel classes until their confirmation. The family fondly recalls special times together at Friday evening services.

Rita was preceded in death by her mother Ida and father Nathan. She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law Jerralyn More (Avery), Michelle Blasingame (Ray) and Cheryl Smith.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the SPCA of Texas or to your local animal shelter in honor of Rita's lifelong love affair and care for stray dogs and cats.

The graveside service will be officiated by Rabbi Holly Levin Cohn, Sunday, August 27 at 10a.m. at Shearith Israel Memorial Park on 4634 Dolphin Road, Dallas, TX.

Cemetery Details

Shearith Israel Cemetery

4634 Dolphin Road
Dallas, TX

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

Shearith Israel Cemetery
4634 Dolphin Road
Dallas, TX

Officiating Rabbi Holly Levin Cohn