



Erika Roof

March 28, 1934 - April 27, 2023

Erika Edith Roof, formerly of Stevensville, MD, died on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at Charlestown Senior Living in Catonsville, MD, at the age of 89.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Roof was raised and educated in New Jersey. After graduating from Leonia High School, she attended and graduated from Douglass College, Rutgers University with a BA degree in Zoology-Bacteriology in 1956. She was always a voracious lover of classical music and enjoyed singing in various choirs in school and church. She also studied piano and violin.

Prior to her marriage to James B. Roof in December of that year, she was employed by Pfizer Pharmaceuticals where she worked on antibiotic research. When the Roofs moved to Lansing, MI, she worked in clinical microbiology at the Michigan Department of Health. Her third position, back in Alexandria, VA, was also in clinical microbiology at Alexandria Hospital.

Mrs. Roof and family lived first in Falls Church and then in Springfield, VA, for twenty-six (26) years. Her three sons were born and raised there. She served as a Cub Scout leader and as Chairman of the Board of Christian Education at the Little River United Church of Christ. For at least 30 years, sailing with family and friends was a favorite activity.

During these years, her husband was assigned a two-year job in Asuncion, Paraguay, South America and the family moved with him. They traveled extensively to Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, and Chile. Mrs. Roof served the Union Church in Asuncion in programming Sunday Services for English Speaking Protestants under the auspices of the Disciples of Christ. She also served as President of the Canadian-Mennonite School.

In 1982, the Roofs built their retirement home on Kent Island in Stevensville on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Mrs. Roof was a member of a neighborhood Bible study group. She was also a member and later a Gallery Director of the Kent Island Federation of Art, Inc. from 1990 to 1995. She volunteered in several capacities at Christ Episcopal Church in Stevensville. Baptized in the German Lutheran Church, Mrs. Roof was raised and married as a Presbyterian with a brief association with Disciples of Christ and a 13-year membership in the United Church of Christ before being confirmed as an Episcopalian.

Nine years after the untimely death of her husband James, Mrs. Roof moved to the Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville in 2007. Her activities included organizing and leading opera lovers like herself to the Metropolitan Opera telecast in the Baltimore area.

She is survived by her sons, Thomas Erik, James Raymond, Peter Bergen; five grandsons, Patrick Thomas, Brendan James, Colin Michael, Mathew Thomas and Jonathan Erik; brother, Thomas H. Otto; one nephew, Steven Alexander Otto; two nieces, Karin Lynn Otto and Lindsay Jean Otto Connelly; and many beloved in-laws and their families, including two cousins in Germany.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to one of the following organizations:
The Kent Island Federation for the Arts at <http://www.kifa.us/ways-to-give-1.ht>

ml, WBJC at <https://www.wbjc.com/>, The Macular Degeneration Association at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/macularhope>, or Christ Church Parish, Kent Island at <http://www.ccpki.org/give/>.

A funeral service will be held at 1 pm on Saturday, July 8 at Christ Episcopal Church, 830 Romancoke Road, Stevensville, MD 21666. Interment will follow the service at Broad Creek Cemetery, Stevensville, MD.

Cemetery Details

Broad Creek Cemetery

370 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, MD

Previous Events

Service

JUL 8. 1:00 PM (ET)

Christ Episcopal Church (Kent Island)
830 Romancoke Road
Stevensville, MD

Tribute Wall



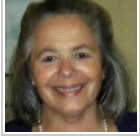
“ *Erika Roof*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *We were born 2 months apart, the men we loved were both called Jim...they died in the same year. She had three sons, I have two. I met her when I became the first Office Mgr at KIFA. When I gave a talk for the members about my experience with graphic design, printing... the application of art for information purposes... She asked what background the people I managed needed: education, talent? And of course the answer was talent and passion, we educate those who come through the doors willing to learn the tech stuff. ETC. That was a but a teeny trickle of our years of conversation, after she moved to Charlestown Senior Living. Lunch with Courtney Pilgrim, meeting Ericar as she got off the Charlestown bus. Then later, just the phone. Just the phone. She'd tell me what book she was "reading" (which meant listening) and we'd talk. I read her some of my poetry. And we talked. She told me about forming a group to go to live-streamed operas. (She talked. I know nothing about opera). Her son Peter had helped set up the computer contributed to KIFA by a newspaper, making it shed 30,000 classified ads, overnight. Peter has been a contact when things changed a few times. This last time when I couldn't reach her, and he gave me a number to call...between meal times would be best... tried, day after day, then... a commotion on the other end, and that lovely, light,, melodic voice: "Roberta?". A person bringing her meal had seen her attempt to reach the phone, helped, then, to come back with the food. So we talked, very close to her death, and she sounded fresh, lovely as always. Thank you, Peter, for helping that happen.*

Roberta Pudney Gray - July 08, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ Erika was one of my mentors when I first joined Kent Island Federation of Arts. She encouraged me to work with artists when exhibiting their work at KIFA. We went on a couple memorable artist interviews together to prepare publicity for the local BayTimes newspaper while she served as Gallery Director. Later I worked with her and others in fundraising, setting up Monthly Programs of interest, summer camps and homeschool programs. I am forever grateful for having known her. She was one of the reasons KIFA continues to help bring art to our community for 60 years.

Maureen Wheatley - May 28, 2023 at 03:36 PM



“ Sheila Willis sent a virtual gift in memory of Erika Roof



Sheila Willis - April 30, 2023 at 09:22 PM



“ Nanette Cassell lit a candle in memory of Erika Roof



Nanette Cassell - April 29, 2023 at 11:05 PM