



Sara Jo Kobacker

June 7, 1928 - June 22, 2019

Sara Jo Kobacker, age 91, of Boca Raton, FL, died on Saturday, June 22 in Boca Raton. She was born Sara Jo Borisky in Chattanooga, Tennessee on June 7, 1928, the daughter of Abe and Bertha Borisky. She attended Vanderbilt University, where she was a proud member of Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority. In 1949, she married Art Kobacker of Columbus, Ohio, and moved up north. Their 58-year marriage ended in 2007 at Art's death. During her life with Art, she lived in Steubenville, Ohio, Columbus, Ohio, and finally Boca Raton, Florida. She and Art spent many summers in the home they built on Nantucket Island. At Art's strong urging, the two of them travelled the world, experiencing dozens of places and cultures. Sara Jo was a past director of The League of Women Voters, Director, Steubenville, OH, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, President of Temple Beth El Sisterhood, Steubenville, OH, United Way of Jefferson County, Co-Chairman Women's Division, Community Film Association, Trustee, Columbus Museum of Art, Trustee, Players Theater of Columbus, Trustee, Marburn Academy, Trustee, Art & Beautification Temple Israel, Co-Chair Greater Columbus Arts Council, Trustee Riverside Methodist Hospital Foundation, Trustee Homeless Family Foundation Advisory Board Ohio Hospice Organization Advisory Board, Temple Israel Foundation Board, Advancement Committee of the Columbus Foundation, I Know I Can, Columbus, Ohio, Vice Chair Alexis de Tocqueville Society, United Way of Palm Beach County, to which, in 1997, Sara Jo and Art made a gift to the United Way of Palm Beach County, FL, which at that time was the largest gift in its history, the Boca Raton Museum of Art, trustee, the National Hospice Foundation, and the Kobacker Foundation at the Columbus (Ohio) Foundation. In 1999 she received both the Alexis de Tocqueville Society Leadership Award for Outstanding Service And Commitment to Community and the Sun-Sentinel Publisher's Community Service Award. Art and Sara Jo, along with other family members, made a substantial gift to Hospice at Riverside Hospital, now Ohio Health, and as a result, a state-of-the-art residential hospice facility was built and named Kobacker House. Sara Jo and Art were also strong supporters of and generous donors to the Religious Action Center of Reformed Judaism, in Washington, DC, whose headquarters building is now named the Arthur and Sara Jo Kobacker Building. One of Sara Jo's proudest accomplishments was her involvement, along with Art, in the creation and opening in the

year 2000 of the first public school to be opened in Delray Beach, Florida in 30 Years. The school, now called the Village Academy School on the Art & Sara Jo Kobacker Campus, serves students from low income homes from birth (Head Start) through 12th Grade, endeavoring to ensure that its students are well prepared for post-secondary school success. The Kobackers were both passionate lovers of art, collecting art from a wide range of disciplines, from antique Asian celadon and snuff bottles to New England scrimshaw to impressionist, modern and contemporary sculpture and painting. And Sara Jo was creative and artistic in her own pursuits. She loved to entertain and did it with great flair. From small dinner parties at home to a weekend-long reunion of some 300 members of the Kobacker family, she was immensely talented, and always knew how to make the event fun and beautiful for all. She will be missed for her warmth, her loving nature, and for her terrific sense of humor. In addition to her husband, Art, Sara Jo was preceded in death by her parents, Abe and Bertha Borisky, and her brother Joel David (Kip) Borisky. She is survived by a daughter, Peggy Kobacker (David) Shiffrin, of Washington, DC, a son, Alfred J. Kobacker, II (Liz Trimbach), of Barnstable, MA; grandchildren Aronson and Miriam Kobacker, Laura Shiffrin, and Carrie Shiffrin (Moudy Elkammash); and large number of nieces, nephews and cousins. Sara Jo is also survived by her dear friend Roy Pollard, Jr. Arrangements by the SCHOEDINGER MIDTOWN CHAPEL. A small graveside service is planned for 11 am on Friday June 28 at Green Lawn Cemetery, 1000 Greenlawn Ave, Columbus, Ohio. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Sara Jo's memory may be sent to the United Way of Palm Beach County, for the benefit of Village Academy, Delray Beach, Florida, at The Offices of City Place North, 477 S Rosemary Ave, Suite 230, West Palm Beach, FL 33401, or to OhioHealth Foundation for the benefit of Kobacker House, 800 McConnell Dr, Columbus, OH 43214.

Cemetery

Green Lawn Cemetery
1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, OH, 43223

Events

**JUN
28**

Graveside Service

11:00AM

Green Lawn Cemetery
1000 Greenlawn Avenue, Columbus, OH, US, 43223

Comments



“ I was so sorry to hear that Sara Jo had passed. We LOVED her! When we first met in Nantucket, I was the young bride of artist David Hostetler, she made me feel so welcomed! Our friendship grew over the years first with she and Art and then just her. I learned so many wonderful hostess tips, fundraising ideas and shared lots of laughs. We so appreciated her intelligence, grace, kindness and love of life! I have wonderful memories and consider her one of my more important mentors in so many ways. I want to be her when i grow up!!!

Susan Hostetler - June 30, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ Aunt Leah's Fudge shop will truly miss Sara Jo. She was most kind to my nephews when they worked in the fudge shop. When AJ told us that he was having a surprise birthday party for her at the Club Car, my nephews jumped into action. They found out how many guests were invited, then made favor boxes filled with Nantucket chocolate covered cranberries for each one of her guests. They rushed to get all of the boxes made before the dinner was over. Then they walked the favor boxes to the Club Car to surprise her. This next part is another story for another time!!! Sara Jo came into the fudge shop days later to thank my nephews. She was truly grateful to my nephews for their thoughtfulness. Sara Jo was a very classy lady- always thinking of everyone else first. We will truly miss her. Aunt Leah

Aunt Leah - June 28, 2019 at 07:05 PM



“ Condolences to the Shiffrin and Kobacker families on the passing of Sara Jo, their beloved and generous matriarch. From Perry, Alexia and Kathy of Seiffert Ltd.

Perry Seiffert - June 28, 2019 at 12:48 PM



“ My condolences to Peggy, Alfred, Roy, and grandchildren. I am Sara Jo's first cousin, but I didn't know her growing up as she was 20 years older than me. When she and my mother, her aunt Fannie Effron, were both living in Columbus, I saw her often when I visited my mother. She was so much fun and so interesting; I loved hearing about all her travels and activities. My mother was close to Sara Jo and enjoyed sharing their Effron and Chattanooga roots in the time they spent together. I know Sara Jo touched many lives and will be missed by all.

Sheryl Effron Rose

Sheryl Rose - June 28, 2019 at 12:35 PM



“ Sara Jo and Art came into my life around 1982. Art purchased a glass sculpture from me while I was a student at The Columbus College of Art and Design. They welcomed me into their home, and Art’s business office. They were kind, generous, curious, and just wonderful to me for many years.

I am very thankful for a gift Art and Sara Jo gave Columbus, Kobacker House. My family has had two members pass on while at Kobacker House. My sweet stepmother Audrienne Brown in the original building. Then last year my mother, a writer, Mary Brown. I told the Kobacker House staff stories about Art and Sara Jo. I was comforted by the portrait of them over the fireplace there that I saw daily. When they wanted to discharge my mother to Riverside Hospital, I told the staff that I thought my friend, Art Kobacker would want me and my mother to remain there. At that time, over the next five days, after my mom had fallen there, I had several chunks of time that I very much felt Art’s presence. I told the staff about that too. And my mother passed there, as she wanted, with her great nurse Sandy in the room.
Thanks Art!

I am very grateful and honored to have had Sara Jo and Art in my life. I send my blessings to the family. I am truly sorry for your loss. She was a very special woman, as was your father.

Love,
Paddy Shaffer

Paddy Shaffer - June 27, 2019 at 01:13 PM



“ The Levinson family (Bob, Jon and Lori) extend to you all our deepest sympathies. Over the years Bob and Phyllis were great friends with Art and Sara Jo and enjoyed so many wonderful memories. Know we are keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.

Bob, Jon and Lori Levinson - Delray Beach, FL

Bob, Jon and Lori Levinson - June 26, 2019 at 04:52 PM



“ Your Kids, Grandkids and Roy purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Sara Jo Kobacker.



Your Kids, Grandkids and Roy - June 24, 2019 at 04:06 PM