

IN LOVING MEMORY

JULIA ERDELYI



My mother, JULIA ERDELYI passed away today, Sept. 20th, 2023, in the early morning hours. She was born on June 3, 1928, so she was 95 years old.

It wasn't a surprise, but as all these events are, it was a shock. We were lucky that the nursing staff alerted us that her demise was imminent so we were able to arrive at the nursing home about 20 min before she passed. So, we were able to tell her how much she was loved, and appreciated, I was able to sing her some nursery

rhymes in Hungarian (so my husband was rather unhappy: I do not have a good singing voice and he was saying that sounds terrible), and we were able to hold her.

Mother had a rather difficult life: the youngest of four siblings, she was much beloved and spoiled. At 15, the family and thousands of others were deported to Auschwitz. Out of the original number of 99 only 9 younger members survived. So, 16 years old, and she was orphan. Mother married at 19, had me at 21, divorced at 24 and decided to study and became a Registered pediatric nurse. She raised me, and had a wonderful career. When we left Romania, she came with us, helping with the kids, so George and I could work extra hours. That's when she started her new career: special lawyer to defend her grandchildren from the demanding parents. Years later I found out that she allowed the kids to watch 1 hour of TV after school, instead of my determination that it should be 30 minutes. As we moved from Milwaukee to Chicago, mother became active in the community, worked as beloved teacher's aide. She used to go to schools and other events and talked about her life and warned about the dangers of hating the "other kind" of humans. She loved to cook, sew (I had the most marvelous outfits), do amazing needle points, swim and travel.

Later, as age and sickness demanded more of her energy, she lived at Lieberman Nursing Home (now Warren- Barr Lieberman). We are grateful for the staff of this institution and Guardian Hospice for the care and love they offered her.

Mother had a difficult life. But what I consider to be amazing is how she, a 16 year old girl, got her energy and will, and with determination and encouragement from her siblings and husbands was able to rebuild her life. The trauma from WWII never left her, and as many in her generation did, she never allowed herself to get help. She was beautiful, full of wit and energy, smart, amazing and talented (not singing!)

She dedicated her life to me, her child, and my family- husband, kids and grandkids, while also being attached to her siblings, nieces and nephews and their families.

A lot of my friends knew her from different activities, some just heard of her. But now, she passed (as she said: she will join her parents and siblings). Please share a kind word and a loving thought in her memory, work on understanding other people and work against hate.

If you are so inclined, please donate to American Red Cross, Holocaust Museum of Chicago, local food pantry or Veterans support groups.

With gratitude for your friendship

Magda and George