Markoff, Florence
July 18, 2017

Florence Markoff

ROVIDENCE, R.I. – Florence Iarkoff died peacefully on July 8 surrounded by her loving amily. Born in Attleboro, she ived in Providence her entire ife. Married to the late Henry W. Markoff, a renowned architectural engineer, she was the daughter of the late David and Molly Shapiro, sister of the late Shepley Shapiro, mother-in-law of the late Lynn C. Markoff, and grandmother of the late Rachel Molly Markoff.

Florence was a woman pioneer in radio broadcasting. Elected to the Rhode Island Radio Hall of Fame and Emerson College Radio Hall of Fame, Florence had a very distinctive radio voice, instantly recognized by strangers who met her at public events, social gatherings and at the checkout counters of local supermarkets. The inevitable response was, "you're the lady on the radio."

She gave elocution lessons to many students. As a result of her talents in speech, writing and broadcasting, she became known as the "word smith" in which she expounded the origin of words and phrases people say every day. She was a regular featured personality on all the major radio stations – WJAR, WEAN, WPRO – in which she personally broadcast a vignette, "There's a Word for It." She also produced a program – "Rhode Island Portraits in Sound – the biographies of interesting Rhode Island personalities from Roger Williams to Buddy Cianci.

Her innate ability and talent as a speaking personality was in demand by many institutions – from the Italian Echo to many Jewish religious and charitable organizations, such as Temple Emanu-El and the Jewish Alliance. She recently wrote and published a book called, "You've said a Mouthful" – the origin of "food" words people enjoy every day – from the "cocktail party" to the "meat of the matter."

She was a member of Temple Emanu-El her entire life from its inception in 1929.

She is survived by her three sons and their wives: Dr. Joseph Markoff (Phyllis), Ronald Markoff (Karen) and Gary Markoff (Eliane). She leaves seven grandchildren and their spouses and four great-grandchildren.

Contributions may be made to The Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation in c/o Gary and Eliane Markoff, 33 Chestnut St., Wellesley, MA 02481, or on-line at www.artingiving.com.

PROVIDENCE

MARKOFF, FLORENCE

passed away peacefully on July 18,. 2017 surrounded by her loving family. Born in Attleboro, she lived in Providence her entire life. Married to the late Henry W. Markoff, a renowned architectural engineer, she was the daughter of the late David and Molly Shapiro, sister of the late Shepley Shapiro, mother-in-law of the late Lynn C. Markoff, and grandmother of the late Rachel Molly Markoff.

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She was a member of Temple Emanuel her entire life from its inception in 1929.

She is survived by her three sons and their wives: Dr. Joseph Markoff (Phyllis), Ronald Markoff (Karen) and Gary Markoff (Eliane). She leaves seven loving grandchildren and their spouses and four great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private. Shiva will be held at Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Boulevard, Providence, RI on Thursday, July 20, 2017, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. A memorial service shall be announced shortly to honor and celebrate Florence's life. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Rachel Molly Markoff Foundation in c/o Gary and Eliane Markoff, 33 Chestnut Street, Wellesley, MA 02481, or on-line at www.artingiving.com. For information and condolences, www.SugarmanSinai.com.

PASSAGES

Florence Markoff, R.I. orator, entertainer, 'the lady on the radio'

Markoff, Florence July 18, 2017

By Linda Borg
Journal Staff Writer

PROVIDENCE — Florence Markoff, a local orator and entertainer who created a radio series about Rhode Island history, died July 18. She was 90 years old.

Markoff was a female pioneer in radio broadcasting. She was elected to both the Rhode Island Radio Hall of Fame and the Emerson College Hall of Fame. With her distinctive voice, strangers recognized her as "the lady on the radio."

She was a featured speaker on radio stations WJAR, WPRO and WEAN, where she created a popular show called "There's a Word For It." She also produced a radio program in the 1970s, and again in the late 1990s, called "Rhode Island Portraits in Sound," which featured biographies of famous local personalities, from Roger Williams to Buddy Cianci.


Markoff

"Ms. Markoff's flair for the art of reading aloud and her infectious enthusiasm for her subject makes Ms. Markoff, herself, a Rhode Island treasure," said Beth Sousa, a former spokeswoman for the Providence Public Library, in a news release about the first audiotape edition of "Rhode Island Portraits in Sound."

As a student at Hope High School in Providence, Markoff wrote and delivered announcements for a student radio station. After graduating from Emerson College, in Boston, she gave private elocution and drama lessons in Rhode Island.

She later went on to perform one-woman shows, mostly readings from books and plays, throughout New England. Markoff also spoke to groups about her radio program and about the local characters she profiled on her show.

She also published a book, "You've Said A Mouthful," which explores the origins of common food expressions.

Because of her eloquence on the page and on the radio, Markoff became known as the "word smith," according to her obituary.

She was a member of Providence's Temple Emanu-El from its inception in 1929.

Born in Attleboro, she was married to the late Henry W. Markoff, a well-known architectural engineer. She was the daughter of the late David and Molly Shapiro, sister of the late Shepley Shapiro, mother-in-law of the late Lynne C. Markoff and grandmother of the late Rachel Molly Markoff.

She is survived by her three sons, Dr. Joseph Markoff, Ronald Markoff and Gary Markoff. She leaves seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be private. Shiva will be held at Laurelmead, 355 Blackstone Blvd., Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. A memorial service will be announced shortly to celebrate her life.

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Markoff, Florence
July 18, 2017

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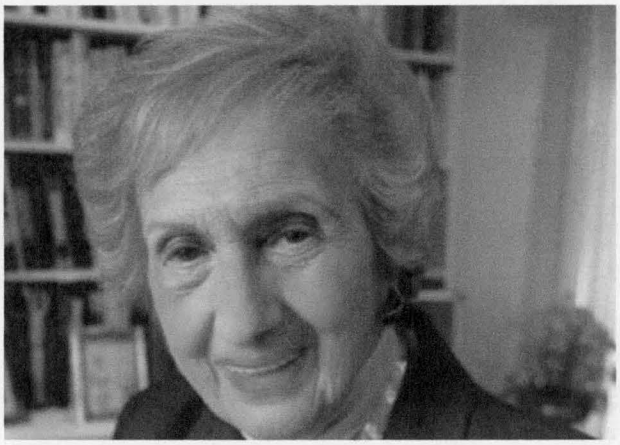
RI Jewish Historical Assn <info@rijha.org>

Celebration of Florence Markoff

1 message

Temple Emanu-El <pstouber@teprov.org> Fri, Aug 4, 2017 at 2:10 PM
Reply-To: pstouber@teprov.org
To: info@rijha.org

The Markoff family invites the Temple Emanu-El community to celebrate the life of Florence Markoff.



Sunday, August 13
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Meeting House Foyer

Temple Emanu-El
99 Taft Avenue
Providence, RI 02906

Please click here to respond to the family's invitation.

Temple Emanu-El, 99 Taft Ave, Providence, RI 02906

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