Donna Polofsky



Polofsky, Donna J. (Carlow), 83, passed away peacefully at Rhode Island Hospital on Saturday, June 13, surrounded by her large and loving family, of which she was most proud, and lifelong friends, who were family. She was the beloved and ever-devoted widow to her late husband, Michael Polofsky, whom she married in 1965 and predeceased her in 1996.

Born and raised in Brookline, MA, she was the daughter of Roscoe and Gloria (St. Jacques) Carlow and later the stepdaughter to Frederick Burnham. Donna had so many fond memories of growing up in the Boston area including riding the streetcars all day and hanging out at the theater in Coolidge Corner. At 19, her family moved to RI and she went

from then on, even being counted as an honorary alumnus of Cranston High School Class of 1959, attending class reunions long after her husband's passing.

A lover of education, but never the conformist, Donna took classes and studied passions at RISD, Harvard, and URI including business, photography, art, poetry, and retail management. She would go on to hone these skills over her lifetime, starting many amazing businesses. She co-founded The Humidor Smoke Shop with her husband in 1965, a family business which continues today. Ever the entrepreneur, she also founded and owned several other businesses over her lifetime; Vogue on the Arcade Modeling, Kitchen Caravan, and Regional Mortgage Co.

Donna had travelled to many countries and loved immersing herself in the foreign culture and making friends along the way. She also loved reading, the movies, and mostly gardening and anything flowers, a love she had shared with Michael.

She was the cherished mother of Jana Lily Mooney, her husband David; Brett Joseph Polofsky, his wife Melissa; Dax Louis Polofsky; and Kaia Lee Polofsky, and her husband Robert Greenhalgh. Beloved sister of Lillian Dragon and Eliza Burnham, both of Colorado. She was predeceased by her siblings Jara Uzenda, Walter Carlow, and Daniella Carlow.

Her ultimate pride and joy were her eight grandchildren who will miss her eternally; Michael, Mason, Xander, Taylor, Griffin, Owen, Gavin, and Ashton. Sleepovers, pool parties, trips for ice cream, wild west adventures, playing zombie grandmother, reading, learning to knit and crochet, gardening and yard work...Grammie made everything fun!

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026, 11am at Shalom Memorial Chapel, 1100 New London Ave, Cranston, guests are encouraged to arrive around 10:30 a.m. Graveside prayers and burial will continue immediately after at Lincoln Park Cemetery, 1469 Post Rd, Warwick. Shiva will be held at 3 Pembroke Drive, Johnston immediately following the burial as well as later that evening from 6-8pm. All friends and family are welcome. Flowers are appreciated and encouraged for the service and Shiva, please exclude lilies.

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