

## **Obituary, June 28, 2000**

*Hedy Reinfeld Follows Her Beloved Husband Six Days Later*

Hedy Reinfeld, loving and devoted wife of Kurt and mother of Bill, Susie, and Ron, peacefully passed away on Sunday, June 25. She was born in Vienna, Austria, on May 15, 1917. She had been suffering from Parkinson's Disease and severe dementia for the last several years and for the last two and a half years had been confined to the Beverly Manor Nursing Home, in Monroeville. She finally gave up her struggle to stay alive, exactly six days after Kurt, her husband for nearly 62 years, passed away.

Hedy's and Kurt's love story began in Vienna, in 1937, shortly before Hitler annexed Austria and placed it under Nazi rule. Having met at a New Year's eve party and married about six months later, they fled to England, in 1938. In 1940, they immigrated to the United States, settling in Pittsburgh, which became their home for the next 60 years. Hedy and Kurt moved to Monroeville, in 1997, when it was necessary for Hedy enter a nursing home. For the last three years Kurt was devoted entirely to caring for her, personally spoon-feeding her twice a day and sitting by her side, holding her hand for most of the day.

Hedy was a remarkably positive and loving person, never losing faith in god or in the goodness she believed every person had. She inspired people around her and tended to bring out the best in everyone with whom she came into contact.

Shortly after arriving in Pittsburgh, she gave birth to her first child, Bill. A year later she and Kurt managed to help her parents flee Vienna and join them in Pittsburgh. Although life during those early years in Pittsburgh was difficult, Hedy kept everyone upbeat and focused on the positive – thankful for having the family together, grateful for living in America, and lucky to be able to make a comfortable and loving home. Her daughter Susie was born in 1945 and her younger son, Ron, came along eleven years later.

Hedy was a highly accomplished dressmaker, having earned a Master's Certificate in design and dressmaking from the Schneider Academy, in Vienna. During the early years in America she drew on this profession to supplement the family income. Her sewing talents and the warmth she showed to her customers made her very popular and soon she had more business than she could handle. Eventually, when the additional income was no longer needed, she gave up sewing for income and only worked on projects as favors to her friends.

Her warmth and love were a part of everything she did. Anyone who had the opportunity to taste her cooking would agree that her culinary creations were unforgettable. Those who tried to follow her recipes acknowledge that the secret of her successes was not the ingredients or the procedure, but the love she put into the preparation – something that was almost impossible for most people to duplicate.

Hedy never forgot her gratitude to America for having given refuge to her and Kurt and to her parents. She showed her appreciation whenever she could, including serving as a voluntary teacher for underprivileged children, fund raising for numerous charitable organizations, political campaigning, and working with a number of other community organizations.

In addition to her children, she will be greatly missed by her eight grandchildren and one great grandchild, all of whom loved her dearly.