
Virginia Julian



Virginia Julian was born on June 17th, 1921.

Her death was this morning on May 10th. She was the last living of her family, as her parents, Ora and Henry, as well as her brother Frank predeceased her.

Virginia was born and grew up in Greensboro. She graduated from Grimsley High, and took many art courses under Dr. Ivey at Women's College (UNC, Greensboro). She worked at a bakery owned by Ira Julian and met his youngest brother Milton when he returned from the war in 1945. They were married at the end of the year. Virginia infused Milton's life and business with a strong energy and an artistic flair. In those first two years she helped him establish Milton's Clothing Cupboard in Chapel Hill.

Then Virginia turned her focus on family and pottery. She had seven children, and here they are in birth order: Andrew died in 1970, surviving are: Phillip and wife, Carol, Shannon and wife, Susan, Bruce and wife, Bonnie, Kimi and husband, Robert Slepín, Jami and husband, Barry Haigler, Tim and wife, Carla. Grandchildren total 10, and there are many great-grandchildren.

In the early 1960's Virginia started her love affair with horses. I spoke with one of her first horse buddies, Margaret Monnier. Margaret shared with me the following: Virginia came to me in the early

1960's while I was teaching riding at Bill Gosling's White Oak Stable outside of Chapel Hill. She became the best and dearest friend. Virginia learned to ride, became an accomplished huntswoman, and made a significant contribution to the world of Dutch Warm Blood horse stock through breeding her stallion, Tampa. She was honorary Whipper-In for the Sedgefield Hunt in Guilford County between 1967 and much of the 1970's. Virginia's start as a breeder came with a thoroughbred stallion in 1967. Tampa was her last stallion, and many of his offspring are champions among parts of the horse world.

Virginia will be remembered for her beauty, her love of animals, and her 64 years with her husband Milton. Virginia told her friend Margaret that the happiest day of her life was when she and Milton moved out to their farm south of Hillsborough in 2005. Now she had everything she loved at one location, her horses, Milton, the farm, the deer and birds, and her garden. It was a wonderful life that was strong to the end.

Interment will be on Wednesday at 11:00 am at the Judea Reform Congregation Cemetery on Jones Ferry Road in Chapel Hill.

Following interment, the family will receive friends at the house of Shannon Julian, 208 Barrington Hill Road in Chapel Hill, 27516.

Published in The News & Observer on May 11, 2010
