



Julia Grace Richter

January 21, 2023

A life well lived, by a person well loved. Julia Grace Plassmann joined this life on February 25, 1923, welcomed by parents George and Julia (Klueppelberg) Plassmann of Bronx, NY, along with four older siblings (Marie, George, Ruth, and Gene). Over the following few years, younger sisters Roberta and Joan would join the family as well. Grace developed a love for music, along with a special talent, and attended the recently founded (1936) NYC Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, where she studied music. Later, during the early 1940's, Grace was a member of the Rockefeller Center Chorus, along with brothers Gene and George, where she performed in the annual Rockefeller Center Christmas concerts and numerous other performances and radio broadcasts. Grace maintained a special connection with music throughout her long life.

The years following WWII brought the love of her life to Grace. Through a mutual friend and cousin, Grace was introduced to William Charles (Bill) Richter, and they began a romance and courtship, culminating in their wedding on March 6, 1948. After marriage, the happy couple lived in Queens and welcomed son Bill, before moving to Dunellen, NJ, and adding daughters Jan, Wendy, and Toby. The family of six later moved to Bridgewater, NJ, where they remained until Bill's retirement from Mobil Oil, and then moved to their beloved lakeside home and property at Smith Mountain Lake in southwestern VA. Following Bill's passing in 2005, Grace has lived at Seabury, an Active Life Plan Community in Bloomfield CT. At Seabury, Grace

enjoyed an active social life, and for many years, was renowned as the resident seamstress, fitting, resizing, and altering garments for many Seabury residents. Seabury provided Grace with an opportunity to develop a personal and independent sense of purpose and being. It was an admirably life-changing experience for Grace, as she embraced the challenge at an age (83) when many of us are socially withdrawing. Grace learned a lot about herself at Seabury, and it was fun to observe.

Throughout her life, we never tired of hearing the “Oh Joy!” from Grace, which was often delivered with her signature cackle and laugh, and with her face fully lit up. It was always a “joy” for the rest of us to see. Grace will be remembered for her love of music, love of Bill, love of plants and gardening, and her passion for life and learning, especially in her later years. Her strength and independence have been inspirational for anyone who met her. During her entire residence at Seabury, Grace lived in her own apartment and was fiercely proud of that.

Julia Grace (Plassmann) Richter peacefully passed on Saturday, January 21, after almost 100 years with us. She is survived by son Bill and wife Sally, of West Hartford CT, daughter Jan and husband Craig (Carmany) of St Charles IL, daughter Wendy and husband Randy (Gross) of Leesburg VA, and daughter Toby and husband Michael (Fisher) of North Warren PA. Survivors also include sisters Roberta (Plassmann) Sommers and Joan (Plassmann) Pearson, both of West Milford NY, ten grandchildren (Josh Richter, Michael Hannigan, Marrison Chiarella, Jonna Carmany, Jake Carmany, Christine Gross Hausammann, Kevin Gross, Jeff Gross, Marisa Weiss, and Gretchen Weiss), four great-grandchildren (Alexa and Zack Chiarella, Rachel Johnston, and Rylen Hausammann), and one great-great-granddaughter McKinlee Johnston.

Tribute Wall

NT

“ Looking back, I see a group of cousins each holding onto a long ribbon weaving in and out in an intricate dance around a May pole, efficiently orchestrated by Aunt Grace. I also see cousins happily playing while Aunt Grace attended to everyone’s needs when a winter snowstorm prompted an unexpected overnight stay. I still think of her advice when vacuuming a rug, ‘go slowly with short passes forward and back’. More recently I see her greeting us* with her warm smile at Seabury, proudly showing us around and introducing us to friends we met in the hallway on the way to their exclusive shop, treating us to lunch at the cafeteria, happily sharing that she found her sewing skills so useful to others, sharing treasured memories of her life with Uncle Bill and showing off recent pictures of her family. In short, making us feel like such an important part of her life by sharing the joy she found in her life. Lastly, I see her blowing a kiss, saying ‘I love you’ and waving until we departed. Love to all, Nancy :) *(us included over the years sisters Roberta and Joan, and her nieces Maxine, Susan, Leslie and Nancy)

Nancy (Sommer) Taylor - February 02, 2023 at 02:40 PM

RP

“ We George Plassmanns always had a great time at family gatherings with Aunt Grace and the Richters. The only less than sublime memory of Aunt Grace I have is when she made us kids stop throwing rocks into a stream in a Connecticut Grange Hall. In 1963 her argument for ecological responsibility was somewhat ahead of it's time .. se la vie ❤️

Roger Plassmann - January 30, 2023 at 08:31 PM

SS

“ I met Grace, the Seabury seamstress, after buying my favorite color yellow dress that didn't fit well. Grace tucked, pulled and pinned and concluded she needed to sleep think about it. The next day she had me put it on again, stood back and said, "Honey, it just isn't going to fit". From then on when I walked my dog every day, I would wave, stop in a few minutes, bring tomatoes, lettuce or parsley from my garden, lobster roll from the traveling truck... and always as I left she would blow me kisses and say, "I love you". I would return the kisses and "I love you too" until the next time. She was such a classy, caring, sweet beautiful person. So appropriate she went by the name "Grace" - she HAD such grace. She was such a part of my daily ritual, I find myself looking at her window and still waving and saying "Hi Grace". She was so special, and I will forever cherish the friendship and love we shared that started with a yellow dress.

Susan Slavin - January 24, 2023 at 12:01 PM

RG

Beautiful memory, Sue. Thank you for sharing it.

Randy Gross - January 24, 2023 at 12:32 PM

WG

Thank you for the story Sue

Wendy Gross - January 24, 2023 at 12:56 PM

JK

In memory of Grace Richter, devoted friend, inspired seamstress, and UpWords player extraordinaire. She loved Seabury, her Level One apartment, and her panoramic view of the dike and the Westwoods. She also loved the opportunities she found here at Seabury and the friends she made. And we loved her in return. James Trail and Nancy Kline

James Trail and Nancy Kline - January 24, 2023 at 03:57 PM

RG

Jim and Nancy...nicely stated. Thank you for remembering Grace.

Randy Gross - January 24, 2023 at 05:28 PM

JC

James and Nancy - You were both so special to her. Thank you for your friendship and love.

Jan Carmany - January 25, 2023 at 01:18 PM

LA

It was always such a treat to visit Aunt Grace and Uncle Bill and our cousins in New Jersey. One time when I was very young, I stayed with them for a week - I was a bit homesick and the other older kids really didn't play with me, so Aunt Grace - to make me feel special - taught me into her kitchen and showed me how to make Peach Dumplings and while we were doing that she helped me learn how to spell "spaghetti" and then made everyone pay attention to me while I recited it for all to hear! After that I spent a week or two there almost every summer -Toby and I were buddies then, and Aunt Grace would do special things to make our time together fun and magical. We'd be playing our imaginary games of fairies and elves, and in the morning little fairy and elf apparel would magically appear for us to dress our little friends. In those days I was taking piano lessons and Aunt Grace wanted me to play the piano for her, being shy about it I said I didn't want to, however in her kind but determined way she urged me to play, so I obeyed and played, what I learned is that I didn't have to be shy about performing and that my playing could give her (and others) pleasure - it was a lesson I never forgot.

In recent years we had the pleasure of visiting Aunt Grace at Seabury, where she was always so welcoming and happy to see us and would treat us to a delicious lunch in the dining room. Lately we would bring the lunch with us to share in her apartment, I remember she just loved that pumpkin soup! If we happened to visit on a Tuesday, she would take us to the little "Thrift Store" and we would search for some lovely or useful items that we could buy and take home to remember our visit with her. One time she took out her collection of scarves and had us each take one, another time she opened her kitchen cabinet and had us choose a vase to take home - I will treasure mine as a lovely remembrance of her generous, kind and loving spirit. I will miss our twice yearly visits with her, her hugs and kisses and "I love you" farewells. We loved you much Aunt Grace!

Leslie Alexander - February 06, 2023 at 07:50 AM