



## RUTH ADLER SCHNEE

May 13, 1923 - January 5, 2023

FUNERAL SERVICE: 1:00 pm WEDNESDAY 1/11/2023 at HEBREW  
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

AT THE TIME OF THE SERVICE, A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED ON OUR  
TRIBUTE WALL FOR A LIVE STREAM OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE.

Ruth Adler Schnee, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, died on January 5, 2023,  
at the age of 99.

Ruth was born in 1923 to Marie Salomon Adler and Joseph P. Adler of  
Frankfurt, Germany. The family fled to the United States just a few months  
after the Kristallnacht pogrom, arriving in New York in 1939. From there the  
family moved to Detroit, where Ruth graduated from Cass Technical High  
School. She obtained her B.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design, and,  
in 1946, she was one of the first women to receive an M.F.A. from the  
Cranbrook Academy of Art under Eliel and Loja Saarinen.

She married Edward C. Schnee in 1948 and together they founded Adler-  
Schnee, a design consulting firm and iconic modern design shop that brought  
good design into Detroit-area modern homes for over half a century. An avid  
lover of classical music, Ruth and Eddie were among the founders of the  
Detroit Chamber Music Society.

Ruth received the Kresge Eminent Artist Award (2015), Woman of Arts Lifetime Achievement Award, and the American Institute of Architects' International Color Award. Her work was featured during the Venice Biennale in 2011. Her textile designs and papers are included in the collections of the Cranbrook Museum of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan; the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan; and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, England. An oral history interview of her career is included within the Archives of American Art at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Significant commercial commissions included the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, Braniff Airlines, the Ford Rotunda Auditorium, the Jewish Home for the Aged in Southfield, MI, in addition to numerous private residential commissions throughout the Detroit metropolitan area. Until well into her ninth decade, Ruth was a highly sought-after consultant for projects involving the restoration of mid-century modern buildings and residences, and her fabric designs are still in production by Knoll Textiles of New York and Anzea Textiles of Texas. In 2018, Ruth moved from Detroit to Colorado Springs to be closer to family.

Ruth is survived by Anita Schnee of Fayetteville, Arkansas; Jeremiah Schnee and Margaret Poswistilo Schnee of New York; Daniel Schnee and Susan Maldegen Schnee of Colorado Springs; grandchildren Tona (Irene), Roderick (Mara), Sarah (Jesse Hulsing), Jacob (Ashley), Rebecca (Joel Pratt), Ariel, and Dana; and great-grandchildren Hazel Pratt, Aiden, Oliver, Amelia, and Sydney Schnee and Clay Adler Hulsing.

In lieu of flowers, monetary contributions in memory of Ruth Adler Schnee will gratefully be accepted by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit (Detroit, Michigan), the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, Rhode Island), the International Cultic Studies Association (Bonita Springs, Florida), Temple Shalom (Colorado Springs, Colorado), or the charity of your choice.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Joseph Krakoff

INTERMENT:

Machpelah Cemetery

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva on Sunday at the home of  
Daniel and Susan Schnee  
3007 Springmeadow Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of

RUTH ADLER SCHNEE

you may do so by making a contribution to:

Chamber Music Society of Detroit (Detroit, Michigan),

or

the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, Rhode Island),

or

the International Cultic Studies Association (Bonita Springs, Florida),

or

Temple Shalom (Colorado Springs, Colorado),

or

the charity of your choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Machpelah Cemetery

21701 Woodward Avenue  
Ferndale, MI 48220

# Previous Events

## FUNERAL

JAN 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Hebrew Memorial Chapel  
26640 Greenfield Rd  
Oak Park, MI 48237  
(248) 543-1622  
info@hebrewmemorial.org  
<https://www.hebrewmemorial.org/>

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# Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of RUTH ADLER SCHNEE



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Hebrew Memorial Chapel - January 10, 2023 at 12:17 PM

TT

*Such a beautiful and poignant send off for the most amazing woman I've ever met and had the heart nor of knowing. Thank you so very much to her wonderful and amazing family for allowing me the honor of caring for their mother, and also for allowing me to participate in her memorial service. I truly loved your mother and you, her family, will always be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Sincerely,  
Teresa Ann Thomas*

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**Teresa Thomas** - January 11, 2023 at 01:43 PM

JS

*Fabulous. Many thanks for this blessing.*

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**Jeana R Saccaro** - January 11, 2023 at 06:42 PM

DS

*I'm sending my condolences to the Schnee family. Words of comfort affect the heart in powerful ways and can be remembered for a lifetime. Jeremiah may remember me although we only knew each other briefly in the summer of 1966. His words of comfort spoken to me as I lay on the ground after being thrown from the car were "You're so lucky". Jeremiah, you comforted me then and I wish for you and your family the best.*

*David Soltanoff*

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**David Soltanoff** - January 15, 2023 at 10:37 PM

MF

*My sincere condolences on the passing of your talented mother. I went to Hebrew school with Anita. I don't know if she will remember. In 2017 I saw Ruth at a meeting of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan and went up to her, reminded her who my mom was (Vivian Tatken Berry) and asked if we could have lunch together. She invited me to her wonderful home. She made little quiches and tea and I spent the afternoon.*

*I told her how she influenced my love of color and symmetry. (I create contemporary gold and silver jewelry.) I was registered for everything at Adler Schnee when I got married. In her kitchen I noticed the Lauffer cooking utensils hanging above the stove top and told her that was my dairy flatware. She then told me how Mr. Lauffer had come into the shop to sell and she thought, because of his German accent, that he was a Nazi. She went in the back and your father sat with Mr. Lauffer and bought the line. She was surprised to find out that Mr. Lauffer was Jewish! She told me wonderful stories, showed me a photo of her mother in the Bauhaus book and the things her mother had created in needpointe. It was an afternoon I will never forget. Inspiring. She left a legacy including all of you. May her memory be for a blessing.*

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**Marcy Feldman** - February 13, 2023 at 01:42 PM

JB

“ *I worked at Adler/Scheme during the in the 70s.*

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**John Bogan** - April 02, 2023 at 08:08 PM

PF

“ *My sisters and I loved going to her store, Adler Schnee, in Detroit. We treasured the beautiful toys that we got as gifts. I can still remember even today, the exotic scent of the store. In the passing of Ruth Adler Schnee, the World has lost one of the last remaining artists of the most brilliant and creative period in modern history.*

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**Paula Fader-Garff** - January 17, 2023 at 11:19 PM

EL

“ I want to express my heartfelt condolences to Anita, Jeremiah and Danny on the passing of your dear mother, Ruth. For my beloved children, Tona, Roddy, Sarah and Jacob and your children, my deepest sympathies on the loss of Grandma Ruth; may she rest in peace.

Love, mom

Elizabeth (Schnee) Leibowitz

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**Elizabeth M Leibowitz** - January 11, 2023 at 09:13 PM

SL

“ sitting on a blanket outside the music tent Aspen I met some people from col springs I said I have 1 friend who is currently staying there who is a world famous artist who has a current show I think in Denver at the time

" oh you mean Ruth we know her & her family well" Love the small world I always will remember her amazing talent & persistence but her lasting memory for me was always that gorgeous smile - lasting like the cheshire

cat - a truly wonderful memory.

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**sandie landau** - January 11, 2023 at 01:30 PM

EL

“ I will always remember my visits with Ruth fondly. I loved talking to her about all of the amazing art and folk art she had in her home. I treasured the conversations we had about her textile designs. Look forward to visiting some of her pieces at Cranbrook.

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**Erica Lardo** - January 11, 2023 at 01:24 PM

JW

“ Sincere condolences to the family. I have vivid memories of visiting the Adler Schnee store on Wyoming in Detroit. I marveled at things I had never seen before such as Marimekko and Dansk. I was a university student in the early 60s and pined for the Dansk flatware which I so admired but couldn't buy, being a student. Thank you Ruth for an education outside of my university! Will never forget you!

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**Judith Cunningham Worth** - January 11, 2023 at 12:56 PM

MW

“ With appreciation for her life and sympathy at her loss from the Sholem Aleichem Institute. May her memory be for a blessing.

*Margaret Winters and Geoffrey Nathan*

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**Margaret Winters** - January 10, 2023 at 07:54 PM

EE

“ What a remarkable woman. Her life was filled with achievement and creativity that enriched many. I remember her well. May her memory be a blessing.

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**Elizabeth Ehrlich** - January 09, 2023 at 08:47 PM

DS

“ Ruth and Ed were clients at Merrill Lynch in the 1990's. Ed inquired about an executive planning calendar on my desk which started a tradition of gifting a calendar/planner to Ruth every year. She was always organized and making notes in the calendars. Thirty years of her appointments and calendar notes are part of the Ruth Schnee heritage collection at Cranbrook.

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**David Sonnenschein** - January 09, 2023 at 02:46 PM

DM

“ My condolences to Anita, Jeremy and Daniel. I met all three of you in your home in the mid sixties when I was in Detroit to spend the summer at Camp Nahelu. Your mom took me all around Detroit and your grandparents Adler were so kind as well. My parents were born in Frankfurt, and our families were quite connected at the time when we were growing up. The connection remained via Helen Didi Robertson in London. My Ruth’s memory be a blessing to her loving family. Doris Goldsmith Melnick

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**Doris Melnick** - January 08, 2023 at 03:35 PM



“ When I was a teenager, my mother (Annette Schwartz z”l) worked for Adler Schnee. Twice a year my siblings, friend, Tuki and the Schnee kids would work on mailing the catalogue. We had so much fun being together in the back room of that amazing shop. All sorts of imaginative objects graced our home and it was always a delight to go to the store. Thanks to Ruth for her creativity which I think might have sparked mine. Andy Schiff (Schwartz) Ann Arbor.

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**Andy Schiff** - January 06, 2023 at 06:02 PM