

Selma Neuman Memorial Service

Temple Emanu El

1500 Sunset Blvd.

Tuesday, June 8

7:30 pm

Selma S. Neumann, 77, passed away on Sunday, May 30, 1999 after a short illness. She was born in Boonville, New York in 1922. The daughter of the late Edward and Minnie Smith, she graduated from the University of Michigan, receiving her Bachelor and Master Degrees in Piano Performance. While in college, she met the young and brilliant Alfred R. Neumann, who musically swept her off her feet and they enriched the cultural arts together for 39 years of marriage. They moved from Ann Arbor, Michigan to Houston, Texas where Alfred and Selma taught at the University of Houston. Ultimately, Dr. Neumann became the founding Chancellor of University of Houston at Clear Lake in 1974 and Selma continued his legacy in the Bay Area upon his death in 1983. Her involvement in so many groups was inspiring. She was an active fundraiser for the Houston Symphony for over 35 years and received "The Golden Baton" award, specially created for dedicating so much of her life to the cultural enrichment of others. In her desire to expand the cultural arts to Clear Lake, she founded the Bay Area Houston Symphony League in 1975. Her participation in the local Clear Lake/NASA business community led to her induction into the Space Center Rotary as one of their first two women members. Selma was also very active in numerous other organizations in Houston and the Bay Area; Planned Parenthood, Turning Point, Bay Area Museum, The Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, Lunar Rendezvous, and The Friends of the Alfred Neumann Library at University of Houston at Clear Lake. Her numerous friends always spoke of her as intelligent, enthusiastic, persuasive, full of ideas with boundless energy and possessing a vocabulary matched by few. Her love of gardening, the outdoors and sailing was well known to all of her friends. Selma always kept a fresh cutting garden full of flowers, brightening the days of her neighbors and all visitors to her house. Constantly at her side were her beloved cats, Bach & ReBach. Selma is survived by her two children, son B. Steve and wife Janet Bowman Neumann and daughter Carolyn (Kiki) Neumann, her sister and brother-in-law, Dorene and Dr. Max Ben of St. Petersburg, FL., sister-in-law, Louise Neumann of Kew Gardens, Long Island, New York and nine nieces and nephews. The memorial service will be at Temple Emanu El, 1500 Sunset Blvd., at 7:30 pm on June 8, 1999. The family will have a private graveside interment at Temple Emanu El Memorial Park. Contributions can be made to The Friends of The Neumann Library at the University of Houston at Clear Lake, the Bay Area Houston Symphony League or the charity of your choice.