

Remembering Ruth Fallman

16.07.1935 – 18.06.2018

Ruth Danziger was born in Schlochau in Germany on 16th July 1935. She lived with her mother, father, grandmother and older brother Kurt. She was the only Deaf person in her family.

When Ruth was 3 years old she started at the Israelite School for the Deaf in Berlin. It was a boarding school. Being both Jewish and Deaf, she and her little friends faced almost certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

Her Headmaster had to make the agonising decision of choosing just ten children to take with him on the Kindertransport to England and miraculously Ruth was one of them at just 4 years old.

Little Ruth found herself placed in the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children. Homesickness was a daily companion. But with a positive attitude and a determination for which she would become renowned, she worked hard and became a star pupil.

Ruth's parents, grandmother and brother initially went to Shanghai in China. Tragically, her grandma and brother later returned to Germany thinking they would be safer there. They were never seen again. This affected Ruth deeply her whole life and she registered their names with Yad Vashem in Israel.

When peace eventually prevailed, Ruth received a message via the Red Cross that her mother and father were in America and had sent for her. Now this strong independent girl, who had learnt to survive the entire war on her own, was to be reunited with both of her beloved parents.

One day she met Harold Fallman, a tall, good-looking young Deaf man who was on holiday from London. He was a carpenter and fell head over heels for Ruth. Across 3000 miles of Atlantic Ocean, they had a long distance relationship. Harold told Ruth that he loved her and wanted to marry her. Ruth ran to her father for advice!

She said that she liked Harold and knew that he was a good person who would look after her, but she didn't know if she loved him.





Ruth and Harold on honeymoon

Her father said that he was a healthy young Jewish man with a trade and that love would come in time — so she said yes! Harold and Ruth settled back in London and enjoyed fifty years of a close, loving marriage together... so her father was right.

Ruth worked for Thames Water in their offices and enjoyed working until she retired. Both Ruth and Harold were active members of the Jewish Deaf Association since it started.

Ruth and Harold loved travelling together. Their last trip together was the JDA cruise in 2006 which they both loved.

Ruth was extremely intelligent and her written English was excellent, even though it was not her first language. She loved reading and sewing and fixed all of Harold's clothing. Ruth had a fantastic sense of humour and kept us all in fits of laughter, even when she was bedridden in the care home. When Ruth really wanted to make herself understood she had so many wonderful facial expressions that were so wonderful and unique.

Harold fondly remembers and always tells the story when Ruth arrived from America by ship and arrived with 15 suitcases. When they greeted each other they were so busy talking Ruth forgot about her trolley with all the suitcases until Harold reminded her.

We all remember Ruth so fondly. She was such a big part of the JDA and we will all miss her terribly.



Celebrating Harold's 80th Birthday at JDA