

In Memoriam

If good deeds leave ripples like a pebble tossed into a pond, Ruth Gordon Shapiro's legacy will be more like waves crashing on a beach. The great philanthropist and matriarch was



both elegant and down-to-earth, idealistic but practical, and generous beyond reckoning. Although she lived primarily in Palm Beach later in life, she and her husband of 73 years, Carl (who was by her side when she died), have been so civic-minded that their names seem to be carved into every wall, plaque and building in Boston.

A Chelsea native and graduate of Wellesley College, she was a concert-level pianist who gave lessons to underprivileged youth. Not content to merely donate money, she poured her time and passion into the charities she supported, which included Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston Medical Center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, the Museum of Fine Arts, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, the Palm Beach Opera, the Norton Museum of Art and the Kravis Center (both in Palm Beach), Wellesley College and Brandeis University, and that's merely the tip of her charitable iceberg. May her memory be a blessing. And the next time you set foot in one of the places mentioned above, you might want to thank whatever higher power you believe in that she lived among us.



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