



Marion R. Imber

August 1, 1920 - April 6, 2018

Marion R. Imber, 97, of Lee, passed away peacefully on April 6, 2018 at Berkshire Medical Center. Marion was born in Berlin on August 1, 1920. She attended schools in Germany and later across Europe.

Marion was owner and operator of her own business mostly dealing in the import and export of household items. One of her passions was donating her time and skills to Habitat for Humanity decorating homes to be donated. She enjoyed designing many different types of genres. One of which were the gardens that will be enjoyed for many years to come at some of her previous residences where she always planted her signature Red Maple.

Marion is survived by her three children, Karen Thiel of Washington, NC., Arnold Imber of Stamford, CT. and Linda Melson of Waynesboro, Va.

Tribute Wall

LT

“ Marion has made many friends of those who came to know her either by spending time talking or anyone who had the privilege of helping her. It became more and more difficult for her to attend to her daily needs without help so she looked forward to seeing the women come each day. They shared much together, jobs to do, laughter, stories and even tea and cake which was something she really enjoyed...hostessing.

For those she left behind so suddenly, it is a loss we could not and did not prepare for. But, we can be comforted knowing that she did not suffer and that she lived a full life of 97 years with a great, positive spirit. We have those memories and feeling that our lives would not have been the same if we had not had Marion in our lives. We never got to say goodbye, Marion, and how much we love you! We will see you again where there is no sickness or bodily imperfections and where love and joy abound. I pray Marion will rest in peace in the comfort of heaven and the joy of knowing our loving God.

Good bye dearest friend!

Lynn Toole - April 22, 2018 at 09:13 AM

LT

“ It has been two weeks since Marion's death. I am looking at her photo as I write this in her memory and can't help but smile! She was a woman of smiles, laughter, passion, interests, ideas, plans and creations! She had so much that she still wanted to accomplish and never tired of recognizing what could be done, of possibilities! She loved to be independent and free, yet her handicap restricted her, she never totally submitted to it as long and she had her scooter and in later years, her Cabulance! She never missed an important date and planned for weeks what she might do to observe the occasion, especially if a gift were to be given. Marion has been the most generous to our family and loved being with us for our celebrations. She loved to participate for the company it gave but also for what she could do to help. Her presence will be truly missed!

But even more impressive is the story of her life; born into a prominent Berlin family, her grandfather, a tailor to the Kaiser and her mother a world class opera singer. She was born at a turbulent time in Berlin and by the time she was 12, was fleeing her homeland and was placed in a convent school with the nuns in Milan, Italy. There she would learn more about and perfect what was probably already in her genes, seamstress work, design and fashion and birth her entrepreneur spirit. At 18, after her graduation in 1938, she left Italy and was reunited with her mother at the docks of New York City where coincidence really played a part along with a lot of luck. She barely escaped Fascist Italy but for the likes of an Italian soldier who took kindly to her and let her pass (after being detained because of a detail on her paperwork). She boarded the Rex, which was sunk by a U Boat not long after Marion's arrival in NY, and for two weeks traveled alone, finding friendship with a family traveling with a small child. Marion befriended this family and for the length of the trip became their nanny. On the voyage, she met a woman who knew her mother, and at the end of the voyage, in New York was able to see that her mother was there waiting on the docks for her! Who could imagine this since her mother had been in France seeking asylum there with Marion's step father who later died in a

concentration camp there.

Life normalized in New York where she worked as a Nanny again and began designing handbags and clothing for one of NY's large department stores.

She met her husband, Ozzie Imber and were married. They took a 3 month honeymoon in Europe, collecting some beautiful Morano glass figurines which still adorned her buffet after all these years. She designed and made her own wedding suit, which she gave me as a gift.

Marion became the proud mother of 3 wonderful children all of whom I have become good friends and share memories since childhood.

Her husband owned and operated an import company which, after his death in 1974 or so, she ran for about 10 years. Marion loved to travel and her work gave her to travel often each year. She often told stories of Hawaii, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Thailand, China, where she would meet with manufacturers, enjoy wonderful dinners and learn about each city she visited.

In the early 1980's she made her home in Lenox, on Hawthorne St.. Her draw to Lenox was friends she had made during visits to the area and her love of classical music and Tanglewood. She would reside in the Berkshires seasonally making her winter home in Fountain Hills, Arizona.

As her health made it difficult to be so far from family, she returned to the east coast starting in Williamsburg, VA with her daughter, Linda, then to Cheshire, CT to be near her daughter and son, Karen and Arnie. But her love of the Berkshires remained in her heart and in 2003-4 she moved to Dalton, taking an apartment in the River Run Apartments.

Then in 2008-9 she moved to her present home, Crossways Tower, High St., Lee.

To be continued.....