

# Gretta Freeman

*Jan. 19, 1929 ~ May 03, 2025*

Gretta Rudick Freeman, 96, passed away peacefully on May 3, 2025. She was predeceased by her parents, Irv and Ann Rudick; husband, Earl Freeman; brother, Arthur Rudick; and companion, Bobby Rubenstein. She is survived by her children, Doug (Nancy), Todd (Judy) and Rich (Linda); grandchildren, Jenny (Aaron) Cukier, Katie (Jake) Giesting, Rebecca Freeman Lesure, Zach (Jessica) Freeman, Mike (Lisa) Freeman, Ben (Tin) Freeman and Matthew (Celine) Freeman; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Gretta grew up in North Minneapolis and attended Washburn High School and the University of Minnesota. She enjoyed her 57-year marriage to Earl in St. Paul and they traveled the world together. Gretta not only worked in the fashion and art worlds, as well as the travel tour business, she had extraordinary achievements as a volunteer. She co-chaired the McKinley School Project, which was a pilot program that evolved into the federal HeadStart Program instituted by Sargent Shriver, JFK's brother-in-law. The St. Paul Section of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) honored her with the William J. Schroeder Memorial Award for these efforts. Later, the NCJW national office recognized Gretta with its highest award for community service: the Hannah G. Solomon Award.

While Gretta was a dedicated wife and mother, nothing could compare to her role as a grandmother. She was known by family and friends as "Grandma Grettsy". Even though her seven grandchildren were scattered from the West coast to the East coast, she had an amazing impact on their lives through their unique mutual relationship. As the grandchildren were getting older and facing a variety of challenges in adolescence and later, Gretta would assemble the grandchildren (and, eventually, their spouses) for a "Grandma's Roundtable" where listening was required and judging was prohibited. The venue started at a back room at the Lexington in St. Paul and eventually would move to Grandma Grettsy's home. The success of these sessions were memorialized in a StarTribune feature, which resulted in a chain of senior housing complexes retaining Gretta to establish programs where senior residents would get together with local high school students. These sessions were well-received by both the seniors and students.

Funeral service 2:00 PM on Tuesday, May 6th at Temple of Aaron, 616 Mississippi River Blvd in St. Paul and available on streaming at [www.hodroffs.com/GrettaFreeman](http://www.hodroffs.com/GrettaFreeman) (Direct link below) SHIVA to be held at Temple of Aaron on Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 pm.

Memorials welcomed to NCJW Minnesota, Herzl Camp or charity of donor's choice.