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## OBITUARIES

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### Kathryn Emsheimer "Kitty" Schwarzschild



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Kathryn "Kitty" Emsheimer Schwarzschild, in her 98th year, passed away January 23, 2006 in Richmond, Virginia. She was the widow of W. Harry Schwarzschild Jr. (former Chairman of the Central National Corporation) and the former wife of Laurence C. Leeds (founder of Spear, Leeds & Kellogg). She was born in New York City, attended Barnard College and studied at the Art Students League of New York. She married Mr. Leeds in 1928. She was a Renaissance woman, independent thinker and a free spirit with great intellectual curiosity. A much-admired and sought-after beauty, she became a recognized sculptress and painter. During the '30's, she socialized and entertained amidst the leading playwrights, authors and artists of her time. A highlight of her creativity came in 1939 when she collaborated with Norman Bel Geddes in creating the "Futurama," the General Motors exhibit that was among the most-visited sites of the 1939 World's Fair in New York. When the United States entered World War II, she commenced pilot training to become a WASP (Women's Air Force Service Pilot). At the conclusion of the war, she married her second husband, Harry Schwarzschild, who had been a Naval Commander on destroyer duty in the North Atlantic, and moved from New York to Richmond, where she was to spend the rest of her life. There she was very active in the community as a fundraiser, supporter of the arts and numerous social service organizations. She was also a competitive golfer and active tennis enthusiast, avid reader, linguist, world traveler and art collector. She leaves two sons, Laurence C. Leeds Jr. and his wife, Dalia, and William Harry Schwarzschild III and his wife, Dr. Melissa W. Schwarzschild; and a daughter, Kathrin Brown and her husband, William Gedale. She had 11 grandchildren, Laurence (Cary) Leeds III (deceased), Ashley and Tracy Leeds, Adam, Todd, Elizabeth, Tate, and Catherine Schwarzschild, Caitlin, Cliff and Betsy Brown; as well as six great-grandchildren, Sam, Michael and Benjamin Harland, and Nicolas, Olivia and James Marwell. A funeral service will be held on Friday, January 27, 2006, at 2 p.m. at Congregation Beth Ahabah, 1111 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia. A private burial will take place following the funeral at the Hebrew Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart Center at Virginia Commonwealth University or the Glaucoma Foundation.

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