

# Obituaries

## Roz Roose, 90

### Artist, bon vivant

Roz Roose, 90, of New York and Provincetown died peacefully at her home in New York City on March 5 after a long illness.

She was the wife of the late Dr. Lawrence J. Roose.

As a child, Roz came from Russia in the large wave of immigration that happened in the 1920s. She and her parents were turned away from Ellis Island and made their American landfall at Deer Isle, Maine instead. The family settled in New York and Roz received an education in both nursing and art. She studied painting at the Art Students League and Cooper Union in NYC but set out on a career as a psychiatric nurse. It was a fortunate choice since it led to a posting at a psychiatric hospital where she met her future husband, Lawrence, who was a psychiatrist there. The couple were married for over 40 years.

As a young girl she had visited Cape Cod and later she and Lawrence began to vacation on the Cape, first in Wellfleet, then Truro and finally Provincetown. Her daughter Gina Roose recalls the early days in Provincetown when her parents lived at the affectionately named

Garbage Gables in the East End of town. Roz, who was famous for her parties, fit right in with the assorted writers and artists who lived in the Gables. Gina recalls that Eugene O'Neill had lived and written there and had left scrawled poetry on the rafters of the house. The building got its name from the solemn procession of artists who took out their garbage — mostly bottles and cans — on Sunday after a long weekend of partying. One party was so well attended that the large deck on the building collapsed, spilling the assorted group out on the lawn with no more damage than one broken toe.

In Provincetown, Roz returned to painting, working in the abstract expressionist manner she had studied. She was a close friend of artist and teacher Hans Hofmann and with the entire extended family of artists here during those years.

The family later moved to a more sedate location and when that went up for sale, purchased The Waterfront Apartments with four other families. Roz's children grew up on the beaches of Provincetown and now her grandchildren are doing the same.

"It sounds like a cliché but



*Roz Roose*

she was larger than life," Gina says. "She was very welcoming, no one was ever left out." But as an artist who loved her summer home, Gina says, "She was never happier than when she was standing on her deck in Provincetown looking out at the light over the bay."

In addition to her daughter Gina, she is survived by two sons, Steven of New York City and Ron of Maine and Los Angeles; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday at the Riverside Memorial Chapel in New York City and the family plans a luncheon and party of remembrance in Provincetown for her friends here at a date to be set in August.