

**Rita Joyce (House) Tilzer** passed away at home on January 6, 2002, after a seven year war with cancer. She courageously fought the disease, won many battles, smiled through the pain, worked through the fatigue and never let the effects of the disease destroy her positive, cheery attitude. Funeral service will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2002, at The Louis Memorial Chapel. The family requests no flowers. Contributions in Rita's name should be made to the charity of one's choice.

Rita, a lifelong area resident, was born on March 16, 1947. She attended Nelson School, Southwest High School, graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in 1965 and the University of Colorado-Boulder with a Bachelor of Science in Business (Marketing) in 1969. Rita served at various times as an officer and/or board member of the Kansas City Section of the National Council of Jewish Women, Brandeis University Women, Jewish Geriatric and Convalescent Center Women's Auxiliary, Beth Shalom Sisterhood, Tomahawk League of the American Medical Center at Denver, Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City Women's Division, Trailwood School PTA and Shawnee Mission South Advisory Committee. She was also a member of Beth Shalom Synagogue, Hadassah, Menorah Medical Center Auxiliary, Oakwood Country Club and Alpha Epsilon Phi Sorority. Rita bought "The Paper Plate," a party and paper goods retail store in Corinth Square, in 1984, to satisfy her entrepreneurial drive and creative spirit. She loved parties and helping people plan and execute them. The business provided many opportunities for Rita to meet and befriend people from all walks of life. Her friends were her customers and her customers became her friends. Rita was their guide to the world of social stationery, invitations, party and wedding planning with the ability to tailor solutions to any type of gathering or event. She was dedicated to her customers, providing individualized attention to detail while creating events of elegance and sophistication. Rita's sense of style, color and class was expressed in every project on which she worked. Her trademark included vibrant colors and contemporary designs with stylized flair. Rita loved everything about her business and the people with whom she associated. She leaves her husband of 32 years, Jerome S. Tilzer of the home; daughter and son-in-law, Jill T. and Derek E. Jokelson of Philadelphia, son, Todd A. Tilzer of Denver, a brother, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins and many wonderful, caring friends.