

### **Anna “Petey” Ballard Cerf:**

Anna “Petey” Cerf was born on March 20, 1913 in New York City, New York. Early in life, Anna Marten Ballard was short in stature, so her sister Betty began calling her "Petey" after a tiny cartoon character of the time, Petey Peanut, and the nickname stuck. She was educated at Brearley and Vassar College and in 1935 married pianist H. Arthur Dann.

Cerf divorced her first husband and moved to California with her children, marrying violinist Raymond Cerf in 1943. She had two children with him. In 1949 the Cerfs moved to Lawrence, Kansas. where Raymond began teaching at the University of Kansas.

Petey was a passionate philanthropist and Cerf's activism included participating in the League of Women Voters and Lawrence League for the Practice of Democracy; donating the original transmitter to Kansas Public Radio KANU's Audio-Reader Network and helping fund the Audio Reader program at the University of Kansas. She also served on the board of the Villages, Inc. of Topeka, Kansas; and established such institutions as the Raymond Cerf Village, a group care home for children, the Ballard Community Center in North Lawrence, and Cottonwood, a program for adults with mental disabilities. She was also involved with Penn House, Bishop Seabury Academy, Planned Parenthood, and the Lawrence Early Childhood Education Program of the Lawrence Schools Foundation, all in Lawrence.

Cerf was a charter member of the Drug Policy Foundation and a member of the Physician for a National Health Program (PNHP), an organization promoting single-payer health insurance.

In 1975, Cerf founded the Kansans for Improvement of Nursing Homes (KINH).

Petey died at age 83 on August 31, 1996 in Lawrence, Kansas.

### **Harriet J. Burgess Nehring:**

Harriet was born August 18, 1925, in Los Angeles. Before moving to Lawrence in 1958, she received a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles. While living in Lawrence, she was active in the Lawrence League of Women Votes and Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence. She also was a volunteer for the American Red Cross, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center and the Villages. Harriet married Earl A. Nehring in 1956.

Along with being a founder of Kansans for Improvement of Nursing Homes, Harriet served as executive director until she retired in 1990. She was also a founding member of National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform in 1976 and an organizer of the first Kansas Governor's Conference on Aging in 1977.

Harriet died at age 81 on August 14, 2007 in Topeka, Kansas.

### **Jessie M. Cassidy Branson:**

Jessie was born near Cummings, Kansas on December 21, 1920. She graduated from the University of Kansas's School of Nursing and lived much of her life in Lawrence with her husband, Vernon. She was an active community member even before her election to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1980 (which she held for 10 years), serving as a volunteer Red Cross Nurse, founding the Lawrence Chamber Orchestra and the Douglas County Association for Retarded Citizens (Douglas County ARC), and performing many other volunteer roles and civic duties. Also in the 1970s, she co-founded Kansans for the Improvement of Nursing Homes, now Kansas Advocates for Better Care. Mrs. Branson received many awards during her lifetime. Among them, she was named the 1994 Paul Harris Fellow by the Lawrence Rotary Club, having been one of the first two women to become members after the United States Supreme Court decision that women are eligible for membership in service clubs

Jessie died at age 88 on January 3, 2009 in Lawrence, Kansas.

### **Lesley "Lee" Ketzell**

Lee was born in 1927 on Long Island in Rockville Centre, New York. She earned a bachelor's degree from Middlebury College in Vermont in political science where she also took flying lessons and earned her solo pilot's license. Lee and her husband, Dr. Clifford Ketzell, a political science professor, followed their dream wherever it took them. While they lived in Washington, DC, Lee worked for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. They also lived in Berkeley, CA, for several years. As their three sons began arriving, Lee focused more on childrearing, but returned to school when Cliff began teaching at KU in 1954, and finished her master's degree in English at the University of Kansas. Her many service activities also included the League of Women Voters, KU's Endacott Society, and the Kansas Art Commission, serving as their Communications Director.

Lee currently resides in Lawrence, Kansas and remains an active member in her community.

### **Katie McVey Park Pyle**

Katherine "Katie" Pyle was born September 13, 1916 in Kansas City, Missouri. She is a graduate of Paseo High School, Kansas City Junior College, and the University of Kentucky with a BA in Art and Fashion Design. Katherine married Dr. Oliver Gilliland in 1940. He preceded her in death in 1948. She married Dr. Lucien Pyle in 1956.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where she taught boys' Sunday School Class and sang in the choir for over 50 years. Katherine was the founder of the Kansans for the Improvement of Nursing Homes (KINH), the Silver Hair Legislature, President of Kansas State Medical Auxiliary, Shawnee County Medical Auxiliary and the Stormont-Vail Medical Auxiliary. She was a member of Chapter AJ of PEO, Minerva Club, Topeka Symphony League, Topeka Community Concert Association and the Topeka Country Club. Katherine served on the Board of Directors of the Topeka Symphony.

Katie Pyle died at age 97 on October 17, 2013 in Topeka, Kansas.

**Bryona Pence Wiley:**

Bryona was born in Baldwin City on July 2, 1925. She grew up in Eudora and was a graduate from Eudora High School. Later in life, she married Lyman Wiley in Eudora. Alongside being a founder of Kansans for Improvement of Nursing Homes, she helped found Cottonwood Inc., also located in Lawrence. She was a member of Chapter GQ of P.E.O. and Lawrence Country Club and was a past president of Kansas Association of Retarded Citizens.

Bryona died on February 11, 2003 at aged 77 in Lawrence, Kansas.