

Monica Getz, Sax Legend's Ex-Wife and Justice Advocate, Dies at 90

[Robert Brum](#) — January 6, 2025



From left: Mark Morganelli, Monica Getz and Ellen Prior. Photo: Mark Morganelli

Monica Getz of Irvington, ex-wife of jazz saxophonist Stan Getz and an advocate for changes in the divorce and family court systems, has died at age 90.

She lived at **Shadowbrook**, the 27-room estate overlooking the Hudson River that she opened to meetings related causes such as the Coalition for Family Justice, which she founded in 1988. The couple bought the property in 1966, according to *The New York Times*.

Monica Getz had two children with her husband and raised three children from his first marriage. She was a former board member of the Jazz Forum Arts in **Tarrytown**, according to executive director **Mark Morganelli**.

Born in Sweden, Monica Getz was the granddaughter of Count Eric Von Rosen on her mother's side, and on her father's side Nils Silfverskiold, also of a royal Swedish family, according to her family's Facebook post.

She met Jazz Hall of Famer Stan Getz while she was a sophomore at Georgetown University, when she was 20 and he was giving a concert on the campus with Count Basie. They married in 1956. Actress Donna Reed was maid of honor.

The couple divorced amid Stan Getz's drug and alcohol addiction in the late 1980s. He died in 1991. Monica Getz later became a speaker on alcoholism and addictions who spoke at the Betty Ford clinic and the Hazelden institute.

She founded the National Coalition for Family Justice to identify problems and advocate for systemic changes in the divorce and family court systems in order to make them fair, user friendly, accountable and affordable; to provide victims and children involved in domestic violence situations with crisis intervention, information, support, legal access, and advocacy.