

Rachel Lieberman



Lieberman 77, of Tempe, a lifelong fountain of love, encouragement, empathy, and tolerance left this world on 3/27/22.

Born August 8, 1944 in Los Angeles, Rachel was the 6th of eight children of Samuel and Cecile Barchas. The family moved to southern Arizona in 1957 to begin a life of ranching in Sierra Vista. Rachel left to attend Arizona State University, where she met and married her soulmate Myron Lieberman, who preceded her in death by only three months - after nearly 60 years together.

Rachel and Myron were known as “peas in a pod”, who consistently wore matching T-shirts around town and attended and wrote about Arizona acoustic music and chess-related events.

Rachel was a tireless advocate for children and served multiple terms as the elected national Secretary for the United States Chess Federation, where she pioneered programs designed to encourage children and especially at-risk youth to take up chess as a positive pastime. A former nursing student, Rachel also spent time as a nursery school teacher and as a caregiver for autistic inpatient residents at the Arizona Training Program. As her mother Cecile aptly put it, Rachel was “the epitome of good”.

Rachel loved singing, poetry, and storytelling – whether in an audience or on the stage. She will be dearly missed by family, friends, and the local acoustic music community.

Rachel is survived by children Larry and Linda (and their families); and grandchildren Brandon and Adam Lieberman.

A musical tribute to Rachel and Myron will be held at the Everett Luther Life Center at Beatitudes Campus at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. Donations can be made to: Musical Instrument Museum (mim.org/ or Jam Pak Blues 'N Grass Neighborhood Band (jampak.org))