



Ruth Sharon Kolker

March 13, 1942 - July 13, 2020

Ruth Kolker 78, of Tucson, AZ died peacefully on July 13, 2020 due to complications of ovarian cancer. Ruth was born in Newark, NJ and moved to Tucson in 1968 with her family to begin a new chapter.

Ruth is survived by Ron, her husband of 56 years, daughter Debbie Mastin (Wayne), son Jeff Kolker (Anne), her grandchildren: Max, Samantha, Jacey (Kolker), Carli and Lauren (Mastin), Niece Risa Weich, Paul Weich (Marion) and great nephews Marty and Jake Weich and Nieces Aaryn and Leah Weich.

As an outgoing, curious, and adventurous person she had groups of loved ones expanding in all different sectors of her life. Her family continued to grow as her children Debbie and Jeff married and began starting families of their own. As her daily responsibilities as a doting mother lessened, she opened her heart and skills to those less fortunate. She transitioned from mother to social worker (although not that different for her) at Casa De Los Ninos working with children in need due to difficult home lives. Ruth was able to provide a bright light of hope to those needing it most.

Although her work with similar agencies ended as her family grew, she continued to be a caring mother figure for every single person that came into her life. Her role as Grandmother developed into her full-time job, wrangling Max, Sammy, Carli, Jacey, and Lauren (as well as Great nephews Marty and Jake, Great Nieces Aaryn and Leah). She was a confidant, a friend, a travel companion, and a mentor to everyone of her grandchildren.

Her love of life and travel continued throughout the years. She had the opportunity to see far corners of the world, always with an open mind. She dove into the culture and the lives of all the people she met along the way. She carried the things she saw and learned with her in all walks of her life. Ruth adopted her love of cooking from her mother Lilly, carrying on the legacy her mother left in the kitchen. Her friends and family will miss long calls with her, enjoying anything she created in the kitchen, walking on the beaches of Coronado, visiting new places, seeing plays in New York, and even the lazy days where nothing was done at all.

She was a bright light for all lives she touched, especially her husband Ron. The love they shared was strong enough to create two generations of people with the same love and

compassion they both have. The traditions they created together, and the ideals they invoked in their children and grandchildren will never be forgotten and will be carried on for generations to come.

She will be missed greatly and was loved by all who knew her. Due to current health concerns services will be limited to family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions in her honor be made to Congregation Anshei Israel (Tucson, AZ), National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (ovarian.org) or a charity of your choice.

To ensure the health and safety of our community, we are following all guidelines set by local, state, and CDC officials.

Cemetery

Evergreen Cemetery

3015 North Oracle Road

Tucson, AZ, 85705

Comments



“ I first met Ruth while playing a game of Risk . She was the most fun and best person that night and for the next 50 plus years . I will miss you Aunt Ruthie . Barry Masin

barry masin - July 16, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ Always enjoyed our dinners together. Never a lack of conversation , laughter and shared memories. While watching the beautiful service this morning, we pictured her smiling and enjoying the love and beautiful words shared by her family. She will be missed. Love Arlene and Stu

Arlene Antzis - July 15, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ Ruthie was very kind and welcoming to me when I first joined Congregation Anshei Israel many years ago. She made a point of including me in conversations and introducing me to people. She always greeted me with great warmth and sincerity. She was very special. Jacqueline Bland

jacqueline bland - July 15, 2020 at 03:44 PM



“ I feel the same way. Ruthie was sweet and personable. I felt she always made a point to say hello and include people in conversations. The U of A dance school, JFCS and the community will miss her fun and warm spirit ,

robyn kessler - July 16, 2020 at 06:01 PM



“ As Ruthie's first cousin, I have very fond memories of her. When I was about 8 or 9 years old she baby sat my younger sister and I for a weekend. Both of our parents went to the NY mountains for the weekend. I was so excited to have her alone with us. We had a ball. She did everything to make us stay happy and not miss our parents. When George and I moved to Arizona, 17 years ago, she included us in all family get togethers and most of all reknew our friendship.

The love Ruthie gave out to the world was incredible. Fortunately, I had some time alone with her and Ronnie this past January. It gave me a chance to say some very personal things to her about my love and admiration for her. As always, love exuded from Ruthie.

I miss you my dear sweet Ruthie. May your soul move on to do more of God's work.
Love, Arlene



Mrs. Arlene Rosenberg - July 15, 2020 at 01:20 PM



“ They say you can pick your friends but not your relatives, but I was blessed the day Ruth came into our family. She was an amazing individual, strong,vibrant,caring and most of all loving.

Anyone whose life she touched was a better person for it. I'll miss her dearly.

Marc Masin

Marc Masin - July 15, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ I first met Ruth over a game of Risk . She was the best person that night and for the next fifty plus years remained the BEST . I'll miss you Aunt Ruthie . Barry Masin

barry masin - July 15, 2020 at 11:17 PM



“ Ruth has always been a positive light, loving, friendly, welcoming and caring. She was also a fun person, very smart and knew how to enjoy life and make life enjoyable for others. I will miss her dearly. Frank Mix

Frank Mix - July 15, 2020 at 09:39 AM



“ I was best man at Ruth and Ron's wedding and was blessed to share with them so many family mitzvahs over the years - memories I will treasure. One of the sweetest, most lovable people I have ever known.

Richard Harrison

Richard Harrison - July 15, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ Ruthie was kind to everyone she dealt with. I never heard her say a harsh word to anyone. Through all the trials and joys of her family life, she offered love and compassion. It is devastating to know that she is gone forever, but Ruthie will never be forgotten by those who knew and loved and admired this very special person. With our heartfelt condolences, Beverly and Morris Fine



Beverly and Morris Fine - July 15, 2020 at 12:35 AM



“ Ron and children. I only hope Ruthie knew how many people loved her and how much she will be missed. That beautiful always smiling face and her always caring, thoughtful genuine love for everyone will never be forgotten.

Joan and Jack Cole - July 14, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ Oh I will miss you sweet Ruthie. My thoughts are with your family. Every time I saw you, you were always beaming and so sweet and kind with a kiss on your cheek.
Love, Stephanie and Cole

MStephy Beth - July 14, 2020 at 10:47 PM



“ Oh how I loved Ruthie! We played maj together in Tucson and Coronado! We dined with Ruth and Ron! And if I recall correctly we saw them briefly in Israel. Ruth was always upbeat! She reached out to all her friends. Goodbye Ruther. We just can't beat the big Cancer! Ovarian cancer is so very deadly! Love, Diane Weintraub

Diane Weintraub - July 15, 2020 at 02:05 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Jacey - July 14, 2020 at 08:30 PM



“ 31 files added to the tribute wall



Sammy Kolker - July 14, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ The kindest sweetest , loving friend for over 50 years. There are many many wonderful memories of this most special woman. Ann and Arthur

Ann and Arthur Goldberg - July 14, 2020 at 07:15 PM



“ I still see her smiling face drinking her red wine with ice cubes. What a dynamic lady.
We will miss her. Carol and Frank

carol pilmar - July 14, 2020 at 06:35 PM