



Denise Mayoff

August 5, 1943 - December 21, 2021

Denise Mayoff died peacefully on December 21, 2021, surrounded by her family from complications of COVID. Denise grew up in Morton Grove, Illinois and graduated with a degree in journalism from Northwestern University. In her senior year Denise met Bernie, her husband, lover, travel companion and best friend. They married following graduation and had 56 wonderful years together. Denise's greatest pride and joy were her four children and their spouses: Jeff Mayoff, Rob and Delia Mayoff, Beth and Bryan Shepherd, Cheryl and Richard Navarrete, and especially her grandchildren Gwen, Mitchell and Richard Jr. Navarrete; Ada and Alice Shepherd; Kaz Mayoff.

Denise enjoyed aerobic dance and water aerobics. She was a speed reader. After college Denise was a researcher for Encyclopedia Britannica. She helped form a synagogue in Hoffman Estates, Illinois and was a member of Mensa. She was a manager at Miller's Outpost, Clothetime, The Disney Store and Great Harvest Company. For many years Denise had a cake decorating business, creating wedding cakes and amazing birthday, shower, holiday and special occasion cakes. Her grandchildren never had a simple round birthday cake. Denise loved to travel and toured Europe, Israel, Australia and New Zealand, the Caribbean, and more. Her favorite places though were on safari in Africa.

Denise survived bladder cancer in 2000. In 2020 Denise was diagnosed with Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) which curtailed travel but not her spirit. In 2021 Denise overcame non-Hodgkins lymphoma. In October she contracted COVID despite being fully vaccinated. Despite her will to fight, Denise's compromised immune system could not overcome the combined challenges of MDS and COVID.

Donations in her honor may be made to the MDS Foundation or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. If you're able, please be a blood donor.

Cemetery Details

Austin Memorial Park

2800 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Previous Events

Graveside Funeral Service

DEC 22. 11:30 AM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park
2800 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Tribute Wall



“ *Austin Natural Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Denise Mayoff*



Austin Natural Funerals - December 23, 2021 at 11:05 AM



“ *Denise received blood transfusions a few times during the course of her MDS and a few more times during her final weeks. We know how important blood donors are. If you're able, please be a blood donor.*

Bernie Mayoff - December 23, 2021 at 10:38 PM

SS

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Denise and I met our freshman year at Northwestern, were bridesmaids at each other's weddings, and remained friends for all these years, despite living in different states. She was a lovely woman, kind and talented. May her memory be blessed by all.*

Sondra Smith - December 22, 2021 at 01:27 PM

SA

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Please accept our sincere condolences. Denise will be remembered as a sweet woman who loved to play mah jongg, eat good food, and cook. She was a lovely person.*

Susan and Victor Alonso

Susan Alonso - December 22, 2021 at 12:30 PM

GE

“ *She was kind, funny, creative, and loving. To her family, so much love and sympathy.*

Gena - December 22, 2021 at 12:28 PM

JE

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Jeff - December 22, 2021 at 10:10 AM



“ We are so very sorry, and our heartfelt thoughts are with you. Warm hugs to everyone.

With love from the Joneses



Katrina Kuzyszyn-Jones - December 22, 2021 at 09:04 AM