



Myra Yvette Schussler

August 10, 1945 - July 23, 2022

Myra Schussler died early in the morning on Saturday, July 23, 2022. She spent the days preceding that surrounded by love, and died as she lived much of her life, holding tight to her husband's hand. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harold & Edna Paget, and her brother, Roy Paget. Myra is survived by Irwin, her husband of 56 years, her children, Jeff (and Helene) Schussler, Doreen (and Erik) Landrum, Kim (and Paul) Loar, and Howard (and Jackie) Schussler, and her nine grandchildren, Jack, Paul, Ellie, Benjamin, Zoe, Sarah, Max, Hannah, and Charley. Myra lived her life beautifully, gracefully, and selflessly. It's impossible to capture her spirit in a few paragraphs, but anyone who has met her won't need these words to remember her. She was, simply, unforgettable.

Myra was born in Brooklyn, New York, where she lived with her parents and brother, going to the Catskills every summer and spending time with her grandparents and her cousins, with whom she remained close throughout her life. She was active in her Jewish youth group, becoming president of local and regional chapters and even the international district. This is where Myra, at 15 years old, met Irwin, beginning a love story that would span over six decades. There is no one who met them who didn't notice and comment on their connection. If they were together, they were holding hands. If there was music, they were dancing. If Irwin was talking, Myra was probably laughing. They had four children, spanning more than 11 years. Every one of her kids did multiple sports and activities, never in the same place, often at the same time. She sometimes said that if she didn't have video, she wouldn't have believed it but, somehow, she made it look effortless. There has never, to this day, been a moment when her family felt like an inconvenience, despite objective evidence that we must have been. Myra thought her children and grandchildren could do anything. Everyone deserves a cheerleader like that in their lives, and much of whatever we have accomplished is directly because of the unwavering support and genuine admiration she offered.

Myra was breathtakingly beautiful and elegant, graceful, and gracious, with a smile that lit up the room, even in her last days. But her real beauty was her selfless gift of making

people feel as though whatever they needed was exactly what she wanted to do, and that whatever they had to give was exactly what she wanted. She showed up, always, making sure that her husband, her children, her grandchildren, and her friends knew how important they were to her. She considered her four children-in-law to be simply her children, and she loved them truly as her own. Her family, and the memories we created together, were the things she treasured. On her walls, right next to fine art, are still drawings her adult children (who have adult children) made when they were young. Myra was our family calendar and the keeper of our memories. She was always at the center of the action, happiest when she was playing games, building forts, painting, and cooking with, or reading to her grandchildren. She always made sure all 19 of us took a vacation together at least once a year, although she never made us feel bad if something prevented us from being there the whole time (or at all).

Myra came from a musical family; her mother played piano and her father sang with a big band. She always had season tickets to local musicals and loved bringing her children and grandchildren to see them. If you watched a musical with her at home, she would be singing every word and making sure you sang along, or at least stayed awake for the whole thing. If she could answer a question with a line from a musical or an old song, she would, something she was doing even in her final days, letting us know she held on to herself throughout this difficult time. Myra was a lover of words - puns, alliterations, poems, books, songs, and word games most of all. She was a voracious reader, and happily instilled this in all her children and grandchildren. She made sure we saw plays and read poetry and knew every Dr. Seuss and Shel Silverstein book. And Myra loved playing games. From Candyland to Mah Jongg, from Catch a Killer to online beer pong with her grandchildren while she was sick (point of pride, she generally won), if there was a game, she would play it and play it well. It was best to have her on your team because she wouldn't let you win, ever. Myra had a generous sense of humor and appreciation of irony. She never minded being the instigator or butt of a joke, which, given the nature of her children and our own children (and spouses), was not infrequent.

Myra was particularly humble, so many people were unaware of her talents. She was an accomplished stage actress, active in the Ft. Worth theatre for many years, winning awards and playing a wide variety of roles. We all have memories of watching her on stage, borrowing clothing from the costume shop, and exploring the (supposedly haunted) theatre.

Initially a Spanish and French teacher, Myra picked up languages with ease, and would always study before she traveled to new places, making sure she could at least get by in the language people would be using. We may have missed some, but by our count, they

visited 80 countries in the 56 years they were married. She never shied away from trying new things and was rarely a spectator or observer; they rode the elephants and camels, ziplined through the jungle, took cooking lessons in huts, swam with stingrays, danced during street festivals, and shared meals with the people they met along the way. She fostered a love of travel and new adventure in all of us, something she delighted in and marveled at, even though she was the source of it.

Myra would always refer to her mother or children (or grandchildren) as the artistic ones, but she was always a creator. She sewed beautifully, making clothes and other items, many of which we still have (none so memorable as the denim-with-red-stitching matching family outfits she made in the early 70s). She knit, teaching many of us to as well, and we will forever be able to wrap ourselves in the blankets she made each of us. She started painting as an adult and created beautiful artwork for many years. Although it was harder since she got sick, she continued until very recently, making Irwin his annual Valentine's Day painting. Myra played the piano beautifully, and yet she was proudest to see this gift passed on to her children and grandchildren. She continued to seek out music her entire life, taking lessons to learn the harp, the banjo, the guitar, and the marimba. And she loved to dance! She and Irwin were always the first (and often the last) on the dance floor, something we mocked as children but delighted in as adults. She took tap dancing lessons in her 70s, which only stopped because of her illness, sadly before we could pay her back for the many many recitals of ours she sat through happily.

When anyone told Myra they loved her, her answer was usually, "Maybe almost as much as I love you." That may be true, as her capacity to love was immeasurable. Someone who touches people the way Myra did will never be gone; we carry her in our hearts, and our lives are better and richer for having had her in it. Her last real words were, "I'm so lucky." We are all so lucky to have had her in our lives for all these reasons and more and, this whole time, she thought she was the lucky one.

We would like to thank her doctors and nurses, who went above and beyond and gave us the last two and a half years, for which we will forever be grateful. Thank you to the amazing staff at Texas Oncology, St. David's North Medical Center, and Hospice Austin's Christopher House for the care they provided, the dignity they maintained, and the comfort they gave. Thank you to Austin Natural Funeral Homes and Congregation Agudas Achim, and Rabbi Neil Blumofe, who offered kindness and direction, treating Myra and our family as though they had known us for years, caring for us all and helping us find peace in this.

In lieu of flowers please donate to Hospice Austin's Christopher House. Their amazing staff were gentle and kind and knowledgeable, and they made this last week something

beautiful.

A live stream of her funeral service will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals>, shortly before 9:30 am on Monday, July 25th. A Facebook account is not required in order to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

Previous Events

Computer Accessible Graveside Service

JUL 25. 9:30 AM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals/>

Graveside Service

JUL 25. 9:30 AM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park
2800 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Tribute Wall

RA

“ *Myra and Dr. Irwin were very special to me. Help me when they didn't know they were. Myra was a very special Lady. I will miss her. My condolences to Dr. Schussler and family.*
*Ronny Allison Retired Captain
Fort Worth Fire Department*

Ronny Allison - August 09 at 03:20 PM

BB

“ *My heart breaks for Dr. Schussler and his family. I pray they find peace and comfort in their memories.*

Barbara Benson - August 09 at 09:14 AM

LB

“ *I am honored and glad I was one of the Shomrim for Myra on behalf of CAA. I was certainly touched by Myra's family messages and obituary. I never met her personally but feel a connection to her because we share something a lot bigger than ourselves.*

עם ישראל חי

May her memory be a blessing for all of us!

Leo Bello - July 29 at 12:49 PM

DR

thank you - CAA has been so welcoming and comforting for my dad and for all of us

drlandrum - July 30 at 09:06 AM

BB

My heart breaks for Dr. Schussler and his family. I pray they find peace and comfort in their memories.

Barbara Benson - August 09 at 09:04 AM

RL

“ Where do I start? Myra, Irwin and family were neighbors, colleagues and friends. For so many years we watched our families grow and mature. Weddings, bar mitzvahs, social functions graduations and sharing in our kid's successes were all good times. Great Halloween parties at the Schussler's bring marvelous memories. My favorite memory of Myra was her steadfast and immediate inquiry as to our well-being when a medical practice group attempted to make me disappear! Myra was a dedicated patient who simply was going to get to the bottom of this and immediately! She called me personally. She was not going to be deterred. Her loyalty and friendship and dedication were simply not going to allow this. No person or entity was going to interfere with our bond as doctor - patient, let alone as dear friends. Myra was a personal treasure to me and her passing leaves a void in my world. To Irwin and family, we will always hold a very special place in our heart for beautiful Myra. May she rest in peace! Roy Lowry Ft. Worth, Texas

Roy Lowry - July 26 at 09:35 AM

MR

“ I don't even remember how we first met. It's been so long. But Dr. Schussler and Myra had me build furniture for their house and his office and the condo in Austin. It was always a pleasure to get a phone call from Myra. I knew when she called, we would be on another adventure to design and build something wonderful. Not only did I get to see them when we worked together but also every Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I would always look for them so we could visit after services. Myra had a good eye for design, but she was even a better friend. I will miss her. Both of you have been a wonderful part of my life for over 30 or more years. May her name be a blessing always.
Mike Reznikoff

MIKE REZNIKOFF - July 25 at 05:48 PM

MA

“ 2 files added to the album Myra



Marilyn - July 25 at 12:51 PM

BP

“ We were ten years old when we met and became instant friends through elementary, junior and senior high school, college and life..(and lets not forget day camp as well). She was beautiful, talented and always very kind. 66 years of friendship and love. I am so grateful. Bev.

Beverly Potter - July 25 at 11:36 AM

DR

“ 22 files added to the album memories



drlandrum - July 25 at 07:06 AM

KL

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Kim Loar - July 24 at 10:43 PM

DL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Doreen Landrum - July 24 at 05:46 PM

DL

“ 59 files added to the album memories



Doreen Landrum - July 24 at 04:03 PM

DR

“ 15 files added to the album memories



drlandrum - July 24 at 03:18 PM

“ When Richie & I got engaged he knew I was a little apprehensive about moving to Ft Worth...had never been to Texas & I knew no one. He told me not to worry because he was going to introduce me to the Schussler's. He said we had a lot in common & that Myra would make me feel right at home. And he was right! Myra was so warm & welcoming. At that time, they had 3 children & asked us to babysit one weekend so they could have some alone time. Richie & I gladly said yes. Richie had just started his pediatric practice & I had been a teacher, so no worries about being comfortable around kids. Well we were in for a rude awakening! Jeff, Doreen & Kim were just being typical kids & by the end of the weekend we were totally exhausted.

After that weekend we became really good friends, spending holidays & sharing simchas together. We even formed a bowling team in the Bnai Brith bowling league.

Myra was an accomplished local actress, knitter, dancer..you name it, she could do it. One day she told me that she was auditioning for a part in a play at the JCC. She recommended that I try out too. I knew nothing about acting but thought it would be something fun to do with my friend. I landed a very small part but Myra was the star of the show!

Now to the summer of 1981. We bought our first house. I was looking for someone to mow our large yard. My husband volunteered me to do it...I said “no way”. His answer to me was, “why not, Myra does”! (They owned a riding mower). I don't know how she had the time to do all she did. After every trip she & Irwin took, she put together a beautiful album of pictures. She always remembered our birthdays & anniversaries. When I was pregnant with my 2nd child & went in to labor in the middle of the night we knew we could count on Myra to come over & stay with our 3 yr. old. I have so many wonderful memories of Myra that I could write a book.

At the end of life

What really matters is not

What we bought, but what we built;

Not what we got,

but what we shared;

Not our competence,

But our character;

and not our success,

but our significance.

Myra lived a life that mattered

and she lived a life of love.

Rest In Peace my dear friend. You will be missed.

CH

Oh Marilyn I just heard of Myra's passing. What a sweet tribute to her. I haven't seen Myra or Irwin in years but we sure did have a lot of fun with them back in the day. She will be missed.

Catherine Hayes - July 25 at 05:42 PM

MM

“ 1 file added to the album Myra



Marilyn McGee - July 23 at 06:33 PM

RL

“ Myra and I were in Spanish class together at Meyer Levin JHS when our homework assignment was to write our birthdate in Spanish. Myra was called on to recite hers. When she said "el diez de agosto de mil novecientos cuarenta y cinco," I exclaimed "That's my birthday too!"

This coincidence created a closeness that lasted into adulthood as Myra moved to Texas and I found myself married in Mexico City. We would send each other birthday greetings every year and Myra would happily tell me of the events of her busy life. I especially remember the photos she sent me of her son Howard's wedding and what a beautiful event it was.

I was surprised last year not to have received a birthday message but now I understand that Myra was suffering from cancer. I am so sorry to hear of her death and sad to spend this 10 de agosto without my friend's annual birthday sharing..

Rhona Statland de lopez - July 23 at 05:51 PM