



## Blossom Ruth Steingraph

December 17, 1935 - August 16, 2021

Blossom Ruth Steingraph, of Austin, Texas, a devoted mother and cherished friend to so many, passed away on August 16, 2021, at age 85.

Blossom was born December 17, 1935 in Boston, Mass. to Cantor Melvin and Frances Schwartz. Raised and educated in Boston, she graduated from Boston Teacher's College and Hebrew Teacher's College.

Blossom married Dr. Hy Steingraph, PhD, and had two children, Seth Lee and Elana Joy. Together they moved to Chicago, then Baltimore before calling Austin home in 1974. Blossom loved Austin. Here she was a Hebrew school teacher, Travis County probation officer, and for over 15 years a hard working realtor. But to Blossom, her most important job was being an extraordinary mother.

Blossom loved spending time with her many, many friends and made friends wherever she went. She was very active at the "J" otherwise known as the Jewish Community Center, whether it was attending events, swimming with her much loved Starfish swim group, or volunteering, as she did often, with joy.

Blossom's connection to Judaism was extremely important throughout her life. She especially loved all the Jewish holidays, celebrations and customs. She

was a long time member of Congregation Agudas Achim and spoke fluent Hebrew.

Blossom had many creative interests including pottery making, jewelry creations and beading, sewing, seashells and treasure hunting. She found great joy in tending to her precious cactus, succulents and plants.

Blossom was always an extremely devoted mother, always available to help, listen, advise and mentor. For over twenty five years, Blossom enjoyed spending time and helping at her daughter Lani's gift shop, where all the customers loved her. Blossom and Lani spent valuable time together as mother and daughter. Blossom also loved her sweet adoring cat Zeecee, who was her faithful companion.

The beach was always Blossom's favorite place, and along with her son, Seth, took frequent trips to the Texas and California coasts, as well as cruises to Alaska and Hawaii. She enjoyed all forms of travel and visited many wonderful places and states. She also visited Israel twice, where she enjoyed being able to practice her Hebrew.

Our family would like to express our deepest gratitude to the multitude of people who have helped our mother over the years with kindness, grace and compassion.

Blossom is survived by her children Seth Steingraph of California, Elana (Lani) Steingraph (Bud Spafford) of Austin, TX and brother Barry Dov Schwartz (Sonia Schwartz) of Long Island, NY.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to:

- The Jewish Community Center of Austin ([www.shalomaustin.org/tributes](http://www.shalomaustin.org/tributes))

- AGE of Central Texas (<https://ageofcentraltx.org/>)
- Drive a Senior ATX (<https://www.driveasenioratx.org/>).

# Cemetery Details

## Austin Memorial Park

2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

AUG **19**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park  
2800 Hancock Dr  
Austin, TX 78731

# Tribute Wall



“ *Blossom Ruth Steingraph*

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October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Thank you for allowing myself and our team to care for Blossom this past year. It was our honor to know your mother and we know her legacy will live on in her children. With love and hugs, Lisa Joy, ED and all the team at Brookdale Northwest Hills.*

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**Lisa Joy** - August 24, 2021 at 11:32 AM



“ *Dearest Lani & Bud,  
I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. Although I was not fortunate to get to meet her I heard so many wonderful things about her. She seemed like like a wonderful person. I am so sorry for your loss. I am thinking of you Lani. My heart goes out to you.  
With love,  
Kathryn Hull*

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**Kathryn Hull** - August 21, 2021 at 04:47 AM

MS

“ I am fortunate to have quite a few great memories...such a wonderful person! I remember first meeting Blossom at her house on Far West so many years ago before I moved out here, when I lived on Greystone in Austin, one complex away from Seth. I remember getting together a few times on her trips to the bay area. I remember running into her once with my whole family while visiting Elana's store, Kids & Cats! I remember hearing so many great stories of trips with Seth to the Gulf. And I was so very fortunate to talk with her over the phone briefly just a few weeks ago from her hospital bed. The world is slightly less bright without her in it.



Mark Sikes - August 20, 2021 at 03:19 PM



Oh, Mark, that's just beautiful. My mom was super-fond of you.

Seth Steingraph - August 20, 2021 at 03:28 PM

MS

“ Elana and Seth, I'm so sorry to hear of Blossom's passing away. I fondly remember going candlestick bowling with her and your dad when Ed and I would visit in Boston. I vividly remember her red hair. She was such a pleasant person. Your fond memories will help you in your time of sorrow. I hope she wasn't suffering.  
Cousin Muriel, Des Moines

Muriel Sheppard - August 18, 2021 at 06:27 PM



Thank you so much for the nice words & memories, Muriel.

Seth Steingraph - August 20, 2021 at 02:12 PM

IK

*I just saw that Blossom had passed on and really was shocked, despite her health conditions. She handled her infirmities with grace, and kept her spirit alive and in the moment. Her mind was quick thinking and she kept her sense of humor . I spoke with her a couple of months ago, and she taught me how to thread a needle since it had become more difficult. She was a fount of wisdom and had a big heart for her family, and her community. She was a continuing volunteer for so so many years. If the community was in need, Blossom stepped up no matter what else was going on in her life. I saw her at many Seders in the past, which we both enjoyed. She loved her children and valued her friends. Sending condolences to all who loved her. She was valued by those who knew her and she will be missed.*

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**Irene Konig** - August 24, 2021 at 01:37 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



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**Austin Natural Funerals** - August 17, 2021 at 08:33 PM