



## Helen Salmanson

March 20, 1937 - June 15, 2024

Helen Bendorf Salmanson was born to Lena and Otto Bendorf on March 20th, the Spring equinox, in 1937. She was raised in the oil boom town, Breckenridge, Texas, where she participated in many high school clubs and was honored as Band Sweetheart, although the ability to play an instrument eluded her. Breckenridge was known for their championship football teams, so Helen followed many of her high school classmates to the University of Oklahoma. On a trip to El Paso with a Sigma Delta Tau sorority sister, Helen met the love of her life, Winky (Irwin) Salmanson.

Helen and Winky settled in Austin, Texas where they raised their children, Mark and Kara. Helen was involved in many local endeavors in both the community at large and in the Jewish community. Despite her Sooner roots, Helen never missed a UT basketball game, or the basketball or baseball games of her grandsons, Dylan and Lance. People that got to know Helen were entranced with her non-filtered honesty, her love for and expertise at Mahjong, her language that was as colorful as her wardrobe, her ability to consume large quantities of chocolate and chocolate milk, and her fierce loyalty to her family and friends.

Helen is predeceased by her parents, her husband and her nephew, Jack Joseph. She leaves behind to carry on her memory, Her children, Mark Salmanson (Tracy Robinson) and Kara Salmanson; her sister, Clariette

Joseph and husband Marvin; her grandchildren, Dylan Snelson, Lance Snelson and Abby Robinson; her nieces and nephew, Melisa Markman (Craig Markman), Lyle Markman and Savannah Markman; and her loyal dog, Ranger.

The family would like to thank all those that brought happiness, peace and comfort to Helen in her final years, Penne Guerin, Robin Holt, Shanin' Smith, Pime Sanchez, Julie Dickerson, and the wonderful staff of the Village at the Triangle and Hospice Austin.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Jewish Family Service of Austin, Austin Pets Alive or a charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Computer Accessible Graveside Service

JUN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

*A live stream will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page a few minutes before 10AM. A Facebook account is not required 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.*

## Graveside Service

JUN 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park  
2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731