



## Arlene J. Tetenbaum

Arlene Jacobson Tetenbaum passed away peacefully at her home in Eagle's Trace Senior Living, Houston, Texas shortly after celebrating her 92nd birthday, surrounded by family.

Born in Sanford, Florida, Arlene was the cherished daughter of Manuel and Hannah Jacobson and the beloved sister of Sherwood Jacobson. She was married to Charles Tetenbaum, with whom she shared great love and commitment, from the age of 14 until his passing in 2020. They would have celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this year.

Arlene is survived by her children, Terri Siegel (Mark), Ron Tetenbaum (Risa), and Susan Sayfan (Meir Michael). She was a proud and loving grandmother to Jeff Siegel (Elaine), Claire Siegel (Jonathan Ganthier), Julia Siegel, Eric Tetenbaum, Ben Tetenbaum, Hadar Sayfan, and Gil Sayfan, and a doting great-grandmother to Leo Siegel, Elliot Siegel, and Leila Ganthier. She also leaves behind extended family including the flower girls from her wedding, nieces, Leslie Lefkowitz (David) and Meg Jacobson (Russell Pritchett), and her nephew, Ross Jacobson (Diane).

A 1955 graduate of Duke University, Arlene served as president of the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority. After marrying, she and Charles lived in Sanford, Florida and managed the family-owned retail, real estate, and citrus businesses.

Arlene entered the education field during a teacher shortage by stepping in to teach her daughter Terri's elementary class, later going on to teach American History at Seminole High School—where all three of her children were her students.

After retiring, Arlene and Charles resided in Daytona Beach Shores, Florida and enjoyed an active life filled with activities—especially travel aboard cruise ships with family and friends. Arlene founded and led the Brandeis National Committee, Daytona Beach. In 2015, they moved to The Mayflower at Winter Park independent living where Arlene facilitated its Distinguished Lecture Series. In 2022, following Hurricane Ian's damage to her home, Arlene—at 89—relocated to Houston, near Terri, with just a mobility scooter, a wheelchair, four suitcases, and her beloved cat to Eagle's Trace. She quickly became a vibrant part of the community, contributing to the Dining Committee, Book Club, and Mah Jong group.

Arlene will be remembered for her sharp intellect, strong opinions, resilience, and enduring optimism. A lifelong learner and avid reader, she had Doris Kearns Goodwin's "Lyndon Johnson and the American Dream" on reserve at the library at the time of her passing. She was a firm believer in the American promise, grounded in her understanding of history and faith in human perseverance. She embraced technology to stay connected with family, friends, and the wider world—mastering nearly everything except her television.

The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Teresa Gomez, who cared for Arlene with compassion and warmth after her move to Texas.

A private family gathering will be held in her memory in Houston. Arlene's final resting place will be at the Temple Israel Cemetery in Orlando, Florida, beside Charles, their parents, and other treasured family members and friends.



# Tribute Wall

BM

“ Terri. I was your 4th grade teacher in Sanford, fl. I remember your mother's extraordinary interest in your studies when you were in my class.  
I had you read *Animal Farm* and your mother called me to insure I knew what the book was about. I remember telling her you would be able to understand it as you were exceptionally bright.  
She was a wonderful, brilliant woman.  
I hope you are happy and doing well.  
I will be 83 this year and have traveled to approximately 83 countries. One of my fondest recollections is teaching your class in Sanford, FL. It was a special group!  
I hope you are doing well and are happy.  
Bonnie Gielow Schumacher Mathey

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**Bonnie R. MATHEY** - April 23 at 08:15 PM

DI

“ I met Arlene a year or so ago after I moved to Eagle's Trace. I was so impressed with her knowledge and positive attitude. She wanted to be involved and didn't let her age or health slow her down. She was a willing participant in the book club in neighborhood 3. I admired Arlene and viewed her as a role model for living a long and productive life.  
Dianne Schlosser

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**Dianne** - August 03, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ At Eagle's Trace Arlene and I shared a love of painting and exotic necklaces. Just a few weeks ago she gave me one of her favorite necklaces. I'm so honored to have this special token as a concrete remembrance of her grace and friendship.—Rennie Quinn

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**Rennie Quinn** - July 16, 2025 at 06:10 PM

AV

“ We became good friends shortly after her arrival at Eagles Trace. She had a love of life and a fine wit. This photo was taken here last Halloween. I miss her. Audrey Vinyard.

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**Audrey Vinyard** - July 15, 2025 at 06:19 PM

AV

*I could not post a photo but would love to share with you Terri.*

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**Audrey Vinyard** - July 15, 2025 at 06:27 PM

JD

“ It was our pleasure to know Arlene at Eagles Trace. She was intelligent, fun and caring. We will miss her Larry and Joanne Doherty.

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**Joanne Doherty** - July 15, 2025 at 06:03 PM

SM

*It is with profound sadness that we learned of Arlene's passing. We had a 30 year friendship with Charles and Arlene. We did many fun trips and cruises together including their staying with us in Canada. Because we were usually in Florida in November we had many very enjoyable Thanksgivings with the Tetenbaum family. Arlene will always be remembered for our deep discussions on politics and books. With our deepest sympathy and love.*

*Bob and Sharon Morris*

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**Sharon & Bob Morris** - July 24, 2025 at 08:46 PM