



Jochewed "Anita" Werch

June 28, 1934 - November 6, 2024

Jochewed Blumenzon Werch (Anita), a beautiful, brilliant and beloved wife, mother, sister, and grandmother passed away on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at home, surrounded by family.

Born in Lodz, Poland, she escaped with her parents to Buenos Aires, Argentina, when she was two years old. She completed her education and medical school at the Facultad De Ciencias Medicina at the Universidad De Buenos Aires in 1960. During her medical school training, she met the love of her life, Angel Werch. They moved to the United States to continue their training and eventually settle in Houston, where Anita served as Director of the Blood Bank at Ben Taub General Hospital and Associate Professor of Pathology at Baylor College of Medicine. She was passionate about her work, helping to develop blood testing during the AIDS epidemic, creating new techniques to reduce hepatitis and cytomegalovirus transmission in donated blood, and in bringing groundbreaking new technology like plasmapheresis to the Texas Medical Center. In 1980, Anita was part of a six-person team, led by Dr. Michael DeBakey, that traveled to Egypt to treat the deposed Shah of Iran.

Anita was an incredible cook and hostess, and she reveled in bringing together family and friends for celebrations. She loved traveling the world, exploring new cultures through their food, art, and music. Anita adored music, especially classical and opera. She and Angel traversed the globe to listen to

opera in the United States, Italy, Germany, and Russia. She loved serving on the board of the Chamber Music Houston, bringing musicians to Houston from all over the world. Anita could dance a stunning tango. She also played tennis and loved to ski.

Anita was loved by all who knew her. She was smart, gracious, and stylish. She carried an aura of glamour and sophistication wherever she went, both in her personal and professional life.

She leaves behind her adoring husband of 65 years, Angel Werch, two daughters, Sheila Werch Jacobson (Stuart) and Michelle Mellon-Werch (Mark), her sister and brother-in law, Zulema (Zully) and Roberto Lufschanowski and five grandchildren, Alexis Taylor (Jimmy), Claire Jacobson, Sarah Anhorn (Grant), Mordecai Mellon-Werch and Natasha Mellon-Werch. She is preceded in death by her parents, Rebeca and León Isaac Blumenzon and her beloved sister, Dora Dina Blumenzon.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00 PM on Friday, November 8, 2024, in the Gordon Chapel, at Congregation Beth Israel, 5600 N. Braeswood Blvd., Houston, Texas 77096.

A livestream of the service will be available to view at the following link: <https://www.beth-israel.org/about-us/news-events-upcoming-events/livestreaming/>

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Chamber Music Houston (<https://chambermusichouston.my.salesforce-sites.com/donate/?dfld=a0n6e00000XAYDkAAP>) in her honor.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Congregation Beth Israel
5600 N. Braeswood Blvd.
Houston, TX 77096

The Gordon Chapel.

Tribute Wall

WR

“ Wendy and Dan Rosen purchased the Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin for the family of Jochewed "Anita" Werch.



Wendy and Dan Rosen - November 14, 2024 at 07:48 AM

JN

“ I am stunned and heartbroken to learn of "Tia" Anita's passing. What a unique and special person she was and with such an outsized impact on the world. I had such admiration and respect for her--a person of intellect, talent, optimism and grace. It was a privilege to have her in our lives! --Jackie

Jackie Nirenberg - November 13, 2024 at 02:51 PM

DH

“ So sorry to hear of Dr Werch's passing. I recall studying her early 1970s work on cytomegalovirus (CMV) and working with her, at the beginning of my career in CMV at Baylor College of Medicine. She was an awesome force! Dr Gail Demmler Harrison Professor Department Pediatrics Baylor College of Medicine

Dr Gail J Demmler Harrison - November 11, 2024 at 09:18 AM



“ Ghirardelli Galore Gift Tin was purchased for the family of Jochewed "Anita" Werch.



November 08, 2024 at 04:24 PM

DF

“ Donna Davis and family purchased the Caring Condolences Gift Basket for the family of Jochewed "Anita" Werch.



Donna Davis and family - November 08, 2024 at 04:23 PM

DR

“ So sad to hear this news. She was an exceptional person and beloved college. I will miss you.

Daniel Rosen - November 08, 2024 at 01:08 PM