



## Toby Silverman Topek

February 16, 1934 - November 4, 2022

Toby Silverman Topek passed away on Friday, November 4, 2022. She was born on February 16, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY to the late Melvin and Lee Silverman. Her father was a contractor and developer and they lived in Scarsdale, NY, Norfolk, VA, Mobile, AL, and Texas City, TX before settling in Houston in 1944.

Toby was a talented artist even as a young woman and received her art education at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Feather and Feather and the University of Houston. Over a career spanning several decades her work was featured in many galleries and museums and included a commissioned series of eleven 10 foot medallions installed in walkways on Texas Avenue in downtown Houston. Her art archives were given to the University of Houston Library in 2019.

Toby was active in many arts organizations and served as President of the Women's Caucus for Art. She was a member of Artists Equity, the Cultural Arts Council, the Holocaust Museum Arts Committee, and also served as President of the Artist Rescue Mission. Toby traveled widely and spent many months studying art and architecture in Greece, Turkey, and North Africa. Her parents were among the founders of Temple Emanu El, where her father served as President from 1956-1958, and she was a long-time member.

Toby is survived by her three children Rabbi Joseph Topek (Susan Remick Topek), Janet Swartz (Randy Swartz), Philip Topek, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, sisters Jane Self, Nancy Kottwitz, Susan Brady, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A graveside service was held on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 11:00 AM at Beth Yeshurun Allen Parkway Cemetery, 3502 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX 77019.

The family expresses its deep appreciation to the staff at Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care Services. Memorial contributions may be made to support the arts, plant trees, or to Jewish Family Services.

# Cemetery Details

## **Beth Yeshurun Allen Parkway**

3502 Allen Parkway  
Houston, TX 77401

# Previous Events

## **Graveside Service**

NOV 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Beth Yeshurun Allen Parkway  
3502 Allen Parkway  
Houston, TX 77401