

Marilyn Lieber z"l

WRJ Ner Tamid Member. Former WRJ Board Member, Marilyn Balmer Lieber (Lexington, KY), and wife of Dr. Arthur Lieber passed away on June 3, 2022, at 91 years old. In addition to her husband of 70 years, Marilyn is survived by their two sons, David (Pamela) Lieber and Joel (Cathy Allen) Lieber; grandson Seth (Rebecca) Lieber; and great-granddaughter Evelyn.

Marilyn was born to the late Richard Balmer and Geraldine Harris Balmer on November 8, 1930, in Fort Wayne, IN. She was a long-time member of Temple Adath Israel. Marilyn earned a B.S.N. degree from the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing at the University of Cincinnati. She had a successful career as an R.N. before retiring from the profession.



"I feel like I have known Marilyn my whole life. Those of you that knew Marilyn know what a powerful force she was. Her dedication and passion for Judaism was so intense, as was her love for this congregation, sisterhood, our youth, and the Jewish community at-large. As the saying goes, she talked the talk and she walked the walk. She was our sisterhood historian. It was important for her to share her knowledge of where we had been so that we could plan where we were going," said Rebecca Young, friend and Temple Adath Israel Member.

"She kept us on the right path with policies and procedures. If we weren't sure of something, anything that had to do with sisterhood, we'd ask Marilyn. During our board meetings we would get off topic, and Marilyn would sit quietly taking it all in and then she would tell us in no uncertain terms what we should do, and we listened.

"Marilyn led by example. She was temple president and sisterhood president a few times. Marilyn held many positions within the Reform Movement that filled her with pride, as it should. She loved being an active participant

during the biennials and she felt so strongly that our temple board members have the same experiences that she and Arthur started a scholarship fund to help Board members attend these conventions. I was fortunate to attend the biennial a few times because of their generosity. My favorite memories of Marilyn are the times we spent together reliving our shared experiences at these conventions and meetings. And how she was the rock star of these events. She knew everyone and everyone was always so excited to see her. It was like she was the star of the show, and we were her back up dancers.

When I was thinking about Marilyn, I realized that she completes my triangle of the greatest influences on me becoming such a proud, confident, and active Jew. My parents, camp, and Marilyn. I will be forever grateful for her friendship, her guidance, and her love."

"I first met Marilyn in 1986 when we moved to Lexington, KY," shared Sandy Adland, Immediate Past President, WRJ Central District (now Heartland District). "Marilyn loved Sisterhood, and she LOVED the YES Fund. She took me under her wing and through her example she taught me about the YES Fund and the previous Circle of Service. She demonstrated the impact on Reform Judaism we all had the opportunity to make by supporting the YES Fund in any number of ways."

"Her passion was palpable, and that passion rubbed off on me in a big way. Back in the day, there weren't levels of Lifeline completion as there are today. There was only one level, but you could complete as many Lifelines as you wanted. I remember being in awe that Marilyn had completed something in the way of 7 Lifelines. 7! In my quest for accuracy, Arthur, Marilyn's husband was asked that question after her death. His response? 'I don't remember, but there were a LOT of them!' Marilyn was my YES Fund inspiration, and I will always be a strong supporter because of her. My contribution to the YES Fund will be in the loving memory of Marilyn."

As a reflection of her unwavering leadership and commitment, Arthur and Marilyn Lieber donated to WRJ's YES Fund and to social justice IHO WRJ's legislative assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.