

Blanche Allegra Roubain died in Houston on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016, at the age of 81. A strong, dynamic woman, Blanche loved her family dearly and served proudly as its matriarch for her entire life.

Forever a pioneer, Blanche moved from Baghdad to Israel shortly after its establishment. There she married her husband of 55 years, Isaac Roubain, and put her considerable amount of chutzpah to work – nation building – while Isaac served for three years as a commissioned officer in the Israeli military. In 1956, Isaac left Israel for Highland Park, N.J., to pursue his Ph.D. at Rutgers University, and Blanche joined him a year later.

Blanche flourished in the United States. She took classes until her English was perfect, and even though it was her fourth language after Arabic, French and Hebrew, she spoke with better grammar and more eloquence than most native speakers. She quickly found her passion in teaching Hebrew to schoolchildren, and, in no time, she became the principal of the Hebrew school at Congregation Etz Achaim in New Jersey. She and Isaac moved up and down the East Coast for his work, but Blanche found a purpose everywhere they went, and she recalled her time as a Realtor in Rockville, Md., with particular fondness.

In 1999, she and Isaac moved to Houston to be closer to their children and grandchildren. There, she became a devoted member of both Congregation Beth Yeshurun and Congregation Brith Shalom. A spiritual woman with a deep love of the Jewish faith, she attended Sisterhood Study Group every week at Brith Shalom in a tireless pursuit to better understand her love of G-d. A valuable participant in YES Group, a leader in havurah, and a key member of the Red Hat Society, Blanche consistently made her presence felt in the best of ways.

She leaves behind her brother, Shuki Aharon; her children, Leor Roubain and his wife Hillary, Elli Samuels and her husband Tom, and Daniel Roubain and his wife Toiee; her seven grandchildren, Danielle, Rachel, Benjy, Josh, Zachary, David and Jacob; and many cousins and close friends. She is now together again with Isaac, who passed away in 2009.

The services were held at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, 4525 Beechnut Blvd, at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to either Congregation Beth Yeshurun or Congregation Brith Shalom in her honor.