



## Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman

February 2, 1931 - April 22, 2023

Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman passed away at the age of 92 in San Antonio on Saturday April 22, 2023. She died peacefully at home in the company of family and loving caregivers after a long and fulfilling life.

She was born in Charleston, West Virginia on February 2, 1931, to Harry Polan and Evelyn Broh Polan. She graduated from the National Cathedral School in Washington D.C. and Pine Manor Junior College in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

After college, she visited a relative in San Antonio and was introduced to Richard M. Landsman. They were married on April 20, 1952 and remained married for 49 years until his death in 2001. They had four children, Molly Ellen, Broh, Missy and Betsy.

Martha's mother died when she was five and she was raised to be a strong and independent woman by her father, who she revered, and her grandfather, a Coca Cola bottler and prominent citizen in West Virginia. Martha was dedicated to her family and many dear friends, her Jewish faith, West Virginia heritage and Coca Cola. She was a generous contributor to charitable and

political causes, Democrats, and countless individuals in need. She enjoyed serving on many boards, including the Witte Museum and Our Lady of the Lake locally, The State of Texas Committee for the Humanities, and the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has been honored by the United Way and National Conference of Christians and Jews. Her lifetime was marked by countless selfless acts of kindness.

Martha's introduction to politics came early. She grew up living next door to the Governor's mansion in West Virginia and her best friend was the daughter of the governor. Martha was an early supporter of Governor Ann Richards and Presidents Clinton and Obama and enjoyed attending Democratic National Conventions with her grandchildren. At the 2004 convention she sat with Speaker Nancy Pelosi to hear Barack Obama's Keynote speech. Her politics never interfered with friendships and civility. She had a wonderful sense of humor, quick wit, was plain spoken, genuine and unpretentious.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents Harry and Evelyn Polan and stepmother Camilla Polan; sisters Barbara Boiarsky and Carol Jo Garrison; her husband "Dickie" and two children, Molly Ellen and Harriet Ann "Missy" Berler. She is survived by her son, Broh Landsman (Carrie), Betsy Levin (David Levin), son-in-law Jeff Berler; grandchildren Elizabeth Berler Brand (Jon), Ben Landsman (Tiffany), Caroline Berler (Laura), Blair Levin, Matthew Berler (Ben), Peter Landsman, Sam Landsman (Anna), Martha Betsy Levin, Charlie Landsman, Emma Williams and Ben Williams; great-grandchildren Rose Brand, Henry Brand, Louis Landsman, and Hazel Berler; brother Josh Polan (Judy); nieces and nephews Marc Boiarsky, Bobby Boiarsky (Alise), Susana Hill (Chad), Hilary Cohen, Leslie Katz (David), and Matt Goldsmith; great-nieces and nephews Alex Boiarsky, Daniel Boiarsky (Becca), Jonathan

Boiarsky (Danielle), and Eitan Boiarsky; and great-great nephews and nieces Ilan and Maddie Boiarsky.

Martha's family wishes to extend their grateful appreciation to the Galvan extended family who lovingly and capably cared for Martha in the best possible way allowing her to remain comfortably in her home. Martha and Imelda Galvan have been together caring for one another for over 40 years.

A Funeral Service and Celebration of Martha's Life will be held at Temple Beth-El in the Wulfe Sanctuary, 211 Belknap Place, San Antonio, Tx at 11:00 o'clock on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 preceded by a private burial service at the Temple Beth-El Cemetery (Palmetto). Pallbearers will be her grandchildren. Honorary pallbearers will be Janet Alyn, Marilyn Dubinski, Seymour Dreyfus, and Stanley Schoenbaum. All the Services will be livestreamed on the memorial for her at [www.missionparks.com](http://www.missionparks.com). A reception will follow in the Barshop Auditorium at Temple Beth- El. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the charity of your choice or The Landsman Family Relief Fund of Temple Beth-El, 211 Belknap Place, San Antonio, Tx 78212.

# Cemetery Details

## Temple Beth-El Cemetery - Palmetto

400 block of Palmetto Street  
San Antonio, TX

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Her Life

APR 25. 11:00 AM (CT)

Temple Beth-El  
211 Belknap Place  
San Antonio, TX 78212

*Reception to Follow in Barshop Auditorium*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Webcast in memory of Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman*



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**Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery** - April 25, 2023 at 10:33 AM

ME

“ *Martha was an exceptional person. I loved her wonderful Jewishness. She had a great wit, at times acerbic, strong opinions that were mostly right, and a generosity in life and of spirit. She cared about people and sought for them to do the right thing.*

*She along with the "tail gunner" Dickie were quite a pair They raised a fine family and leave a great legacy.*

*To Betsy and Broh, Jeff, and the grandchildren and other family members: May God comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem and all others.*

*Myron East*

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**Myron East** - May 04, 2023 at 11:52 AM

IA

“ It was always nice to see Martha, down the street or out and about. She was always kind and friendly whenever we were together. I think that we have been neighbors and friends with the Landsman family as long as I can remember. My brother was even in a carpool with you all for religious school. Martha was always sweet to Ronnie, making him feel like he belonged. She will always be remembered as we pass by her house or go to so many places that both families enjoyed. You are all in our hearts.  
Ilene Arbetter

Ilene Arbetter - April 28, 2023 at 03:28 PM

JK

“ I am saddened to read of Martha's passing in the paper this afternoon and sorry to have missed attending her service. I have many fond and fun memories with Martha at Spurs games (when her favorite Manu was playing), happy hours at Petroleum Club, weekend at the ranch, rodeo, Cadillac Bar in Nuevo Laredo, talking travel, among other things. I have missed her and will continue to for a long time. She was a kind and thoughtful friend, Sincerely,  
Julie Kallison

Julie Kallison - April 25, 2023 at 03:11 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman.



April 24, 2023 at 09:58 AM

BF

“ *Brendan and Cathy O'Byrne and family. purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman.*



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**Brendan and Cathy O'Byrne and family.** - April 24, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman.*



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April 23, 2023 at 10:48 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Henrietta Martha Polan Landsman.*



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April 23, 2023 at 03:10 PM

MP

“ Martha and Dickie were living in San Antonio when I began seeing Frank Bennack, a San Antonian who was living in NYC then. When I told Martha, who knew Frank and his family since Dickie had advertised their movie theaters in the San Antonio Light when Frank was the publisher, I was seeing Frank, she said, “ He’s a real catch and a good guy.” I took her advice and it’s still true after 18 years of marriage. Thank you, Martha for your wit, good sense and very clear advice!

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**Mary Lake Polan** - April 23, 2023 at 11:50 AM

SP

“ Albert Polan, my father and Martha’s cousin, always said that Martha was the nicest Polan. There are lots of us, and I never saw any reason to doubt that.  
Rest in peace, Martha. Your memory is indeed a blessing.

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**Sidney Polan** - April 23, 2023 at 08:40 AM

TB

I first met Martha at my son's college graduation. His classmate had a grandmother in attendance. When she read my son's name in the program, she found me and we exchanged names and memories of our extended family. I subsequently spoke with Martha by phone on her birthday and learned more about her from members of the Polan family in Huntington. May her memory be a blessing.

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**Tony Broh** - April 23, 2023 at 09:18 AM