



## Cheryl Lynn Blumenthal Olvera

September 16, 1949 - June 14, 2020

Cheryl Lynn Blumenthal Olvera, 70, died peacefully in her sleep on June 14, 2020, at her home in Olathe, KS. Private family services will be held.

She is survived by her husband, Henry Olvera; her sister, Marilyn (Peter Grisafi) Blumenthal; and her brothers Joel (Linda Nysten) Blumenthal; Gary (Liane Leshne) Blumenthal; and Steven Phillip Blumenthal. She is also survived by her niece, Elizabeth Rose Blumenthal, and her nephews Scott Blumenthal and Benjamin, Alexander, and Daniel Blumenthal.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Blanche (nee Lipsky) Blumenthal.

Cheryl was born in Kansas City, Missouri, at Menorah Hospital on Sept. 16, 1949. She graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School in 1967 and attended Park College. Known for her creativity and outstanding writing skills, she graduated cum laude in 1971 with a B.A. in literature.

Cheryl pursued a successful career in market research, working first in Texas and then in California, where she met Henry in 1984. The two were married in 1988.

Cheryl's greatest passion in life was caring for the beloved Golden Retrievers she and Henry considered their children: Bob Gates, Frank Gates, and Wyatt Earp Gates. The couple chose those names to pay homage to their favorite barbecue sauce.

During their years in California, Cheryl loved nothing more than walking Bob around the beautiful Lake Elizabeth with a group of other dog owners who became lasting friends. Cheryl relished the love and attention Bob received and also the happiness he evoked in others. Wanting to share that love, she trained Bob to become a therapy dog. Cheryl's experiences were later detailed in a book that was published about the lake.

In addition to their dogs, Cheryl shared Henry's passion for the San Francisco Giants. She

never stopped cheering for her hometown Kansas City teams, however, and was thrilled when the Chiefs won the Super Bowl not long after she and Henry moved to Olathe.

A devoted guardian to her brother Steven, who has autism, Cheryl advocated fiercely on his behalf. She spoke out on behalf of other vulnerable groups, as well, motivated by a strong sense of civil justice, and she joined her loving sister, Marilyn, every year for walks on behalf of cancer prevention and autism research.

Cheryl will be dearly missed by her family and the numerous friends whose lives she touched. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Community Living Opportunities by visiting [www.clokan.org](http://www.clokan.org).

# Cemetery

---

## **Kehilath Israel Blue Ridge Cemetery**

1901 S. Blue Ridge Blvd.

Independence, MO,

# Comments

---



“ I met Cheryl about 45 years ago, when we were both working at the same market research company. We became friends instantly. She introduced me to her sister, Marilyn. A couple of weeks later, I met her brothers Gary and Joel, and then her wonderful mom, Blanche.

Cheryl and I discovered that we liked the same movies, especially old MGM musicals, and every Judy Garland film ever made. Cheryl loved to laugh, help her friends, and work hard.

I was elated when Cheryl and Henry moved back to the Kansas City area 18 months ago. Our reunion, sadly, came to an abrupt end. My thoughts are with her sister, her brothers, and Henry. Their beautiful dog, Wyatt, will be well cared for and loved by Henry.

I miss you, my dear friend. Rest in peace.

Ellen Rothman

Ellen Rothman - June 22, 2020 at 11:34 AM

---



“ Cheryl, you will be missed. I remember how we met. You introduced me to Bob Gates via a letter sent to Gates Bar-B-Q in the late eighties early ninety's. I was so in awe of the fact you would name your beloved Bob after Gates Bar-B-Q that we sent care packages on holidays. We kept in touch over the years and I had the opportunity to met Frank Gates. I did so enjoy your impromptu visits to KC and Steve always remembered me. What a great guy. I know he will miss you greatly. When you showed up at the restaurant one brisk afternoon and told me you had moved to Olathe I knew I'd see more of you and the kids.

I'll miss all the holiday cards you'd email and the stories of Frank and Wyatt Earp. Rest In Peace Cheryl and know Bob is glad to see you. Love you

Arzelia Gates

Arzelia F Gates - June 17, 2020 at 10:11 PM

---



“ Sorry for your families loss. Good family. Prayers with you all.

mark anderson - June 17, 2020 at 07:37 AM



“ My heart is broken with the loss of my sweet cousin Cheryl Blumenthal Olvera. Cheryl was a unique and loving lady and gave fabulous hugs just like her much missed Mom Blanche. So hard to process why she had to leave us so soon.

**Joan Yaffe** - June 16, 2020 at 10:27 AM