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ROBERT COHEN OBITUARY

August 2, 1947 - December 1, 2021 Robert Neil Cohen passed away on December 1, 2021, at the age of 74. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he was raised in Longview, Texas and attended Longview High School where he was Vice-President of the Class and President of the Key Club. Upon graduation, he attended Northwestern University where he graduated in 1969 and went into the Peace Corps in South Korea.

Following his time in Asia, Bob returned to Texas where he met the love of his life, Nancy Sher Cohen, and obtained his M.A. degree in Film from the University of Texas in Austin in 1974. Bob and Nancy were married in 1973 and together in 1974 went to Japan for two years where Bob became the Museum of Modern Art Film Center scholar and studied Japanese cinema.

Upon their return to the United States, Bob received a Ph.d from UCLA in Film, specializing in Japanese cinema, a subject upon which he wrote extensively and whose work was continued to be published even in recent years.

Bob spent several years as an academic teaching at UCLA and UC Santa Barbara and ultimately as the first resident scholar at the American Film Institute. But he yearned to enter the film business in Los Angeles, first as the development director for Lawrence Schiller Productions and ultimately as a screenwriter when he won the Nichol Fellowship in Screenwriting from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences for his screenplay "The Good Ole Boy," the story of the relationship of a black musician and Jewish boy growing up in East Texas.

After working on multiple screenplays, Bob ultimately decided to follow another life-long passion: photography. Bob's photographs were featured in shows in Los Angeles and Kansas City and his photographs of Jewish cemeteries is part of the permanent collection at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Bob was an amazing father of Aaron, now 37 years of age, spending years when Aaron was young as the only Dad in the car pool line and involving himself in Aaron's education and serving on the Board of Trustees of the Valley Beth Shalom Day School during Aaron's school years. He was a member of the Henry and Emma Rogers Society at Northwestern University and remained in contact with other

Nichol winners over the years.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Rosalie Harris Cohen and Dr. Ralph Cohen, his stepmother, Lucy Cohen, and his sister, Patty Cohen. He is survived by his sisters and their husbands, Nan Gold and Bo Von Der Ahe, Dr. William Meyers and Lynn Meyers, and Dr. Armond Schwartz and Cindy Schwartz, along with 8 loved nieces, nephews and 7 great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bob's memory to Valley Beth Shalom.

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