



Isabel Levy Himelhoch

June 13, 1932 - February 3, 2018

Isabel L. Himelhoch, 85, died peacefully on February 3, 2018.

She was born in Greenfield, MA, to the late Maurice J. and Lillian S. Levy. She is survived by her husband, Charles (Chuck) S. Himelhoch, Sr., son, Charles (Chip) S. Himelhoch, Jr., daughter, Carol R. Himelhoch, son-in-law Stephen (Steve) R. Ball, niece Caroline Philip, and nephew Peter Winer. Isabel earned a B.A. degree in music theory and composition from Wheaton College in Norton, MA, and completed graduate work in music theory and composition at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA. As a teenager she studied music composition privately with Leonard Bernstein. Her vocal training included 9 years under Ralph Oatley, former member of the Doyle Carte Company of London, England, when she studied at the Deerfield Academy and performed in many Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Vocal training also included 4 years under Frederick Jegel, formerly with the Metropolitan Opera, when she studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA. She wrote music for Columbia Records in New York, for the TV show, "Sing Along with Mitch." She married Chuck in 1955 and they made their home in Birmingham, MI. Her early management training at Bergdorf-Goodman, in New York, NY, served her well as the fashion coordinator and better dress buyer at Himelhoch's, the former Detroit-based women's fashion chain, where she helped to set fashion in Detroit during its heyday. She participated in founding the music department at Michigan State University-Oakland (now Oakland University), at which she also taught basic harmony and music appreciation

and directed the glee club and chorale. Isabel taught and directed several productions at the Cranbrook Summer Theater School. She directed and acted several plays and musicals at St. Dunstan's, the Birmingham Village Players, and the Pinckney Players. She directed South Pacific, Gypsy, Cactus Flower, Kismet, A Little Night Music, Kiss Me Kate, Bells are Ringing, Riverwind (Music Director), The Music Man, You're a Good Man Charlie Brown, Guys and Dolls, Oklahoma, The Lion in Winter, Oh Kay!, Pajama Game, 70 Girls 70, Plain and Fancy, Irma La Douce, Baby, The 1940s Radio Hour, I Do I Do!, and Company. She acted in South Pacific, The Gioconda Smile, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, The King and I, Major Barbara, Carousel, Brigadoon, Anything Goes, Company, Two by Two, and Fidler on the Roof. She sang soprano in The Village Voices, an eight-member vocal group, arranged by Director Priscilla Benson. Participation in professional and volunteer organizations included the Women's Association for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Association, the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Meadowbrook Theater Committee, and the Fashion Group International Detroit branch. She enjoyed tennis, golf, and cross-country skiing, and was a life member of the Bloomfield Open Hunt Club. Isabel was a prolific needlepoint artist. She completed numerous innovative works, a sampling of which includes a family portrait, three-dimensional pieces, portraits of jungle animals, and complex geometrical designs. She started Himelhoch's Needle Arts Gallery, which donated the Cranbrook 50th Anniversary Rug, a needlepoint tapestry, which is on prominent display at the Brookside School Cranbrook campus. Visitation Monday, February 5, 5-8 p.m. and service Tuesday, February 6, 11 a.m. at the Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E. of Woodward), Royal Oak, MI. Those who so desire may make memorial donations in memory of Isabel to Meadow Brook (Meadow Brook Hall, 350 Estate Drive, Rochester, MI 48309-4401/mnhifo@oakland.edu) or Hospice of Michigan (<https://www.hom.org/donations/contact-me/>).

Cemetery Details

Woodmere Cemetery

9400 W. Fort Street
Detroit, MI 48209

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 5. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 6. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall

PP

“ Carol, Chip and Charles,
My condolences on the passing of Isabel. I have fond memories of our Himelhoch's years together- we all bonded like family, thanks to your example and leadership. I enjoyed reading about Isabel's pursuits rounding out what I know about her. I hope she passed comfortably and may your warm memories of her turn your sorrow into smiles.

Pamela Papas

Pamela Papas - February 06, 2018 at 10:31 AM

PI

“ Deeply saddened to hear of Isabel's passing, The John and Helen Ivory family.

Pat Ivory - February 06, 2018 at 09:18 AM

BS

“ I am deeply saddened to learn of Isabel's passing and only hope it was a peaceful one. My heartfelt sympathies to you, Chuck, and your family. I will be writing you a letter about my friendship through St. D's with Isabel and I'll send it to you through Sullivan's but I want you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you today. We are on Marco Island, it's where we have our winter home, so I can't be there in person. Take Care Barb Solverson

BARB SOLVERSON - February 06, 2018 at 08:45 AM

PS

“ *Chuck and family: I was shocked to hear of Isabel's passing. Thinking that anyone so strong and indomitable could die before us is almost unimaginable. She was such a talented and energetic lady, while at the same time full of fun. I will never forget her prowess on the golf course (3 holes in one the last time we talked) and of course the years working with her at St. Dunstan's. I still remember her kindness to me during the June Show, Boys from Syracuse. Not only did she put up with my lack of talent, but also had us home for dinner. Such wonderful memories of a great gal. I will remember her in my prayers. Phil Savage*

Philip F. Savage - February 05, 2018 at 08:49 PM

TR

“ *Trever and Mary Raymond purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Isabel Levy Himelhoch.*



Trever and Mary Raymond - February 05, 2018 at 03:02 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Isabel Levy Himelhoch.*



February 05, 2018 at 12:08 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Isabel Levy Himelhoch.



February 05, 2018 at 08:03 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage* was purchased for the family of Isabel Levy Himelhoch.



February 04, 2018 at 07:38 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms* was purchased for the family of Isabel Levy Himelhoch.



February 04, 2018 at 02:24 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Isabel Levy Himelhoch.



February 04, 2018 at 10:25 AM