



Judith Williams (nee Friedman) passed away peacefully on August 14, 2023, in Phoenix, AZ. Judith was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 4, 1929, to Max and Ella Friedman. She moved to Tucson in 1939 and this became her forever home. She was preceded in death by her parents, her older brother, Howard Friedman, 2 of her daughters, Kirk Cookson and Kevyn Duran, and her granddaughter Jasmine Duran. She is survived by her daughter Gillian (Clint) Bleeker of Flagstaff, youngest child Bryan (Jack) Gordon of Scottsdale, 2 grandsons, Canon and Bentley Bleeker, one granddaughter Chelsea (Michael) Duran Rodriguez of Tucson and 2 great grandsons, Abel and Bodhi Rodriguez.

Judith lived within a 1-mile radius of The University of Arizona from 1939 until 1995. She attended University Heights Elementary School, Mansfeld Junior High and graduated from Tucson High School in 1947. It was at Tucson High where she began her career in journalism as a writer and member of the editorial board of The Cactus Chronicle and the Tucsonian. She attended the University of Arizona pursuing a degree in Journalism and a double minor in history and economics. She was a reporter for The Arizona Daily Star, as well as promotion director and Features writer for both the Star and Tucson Citizen. She was a stringer for several national magazines, including Woman's World. This was followed by becoming the publications editor for Hughes Aircraft Missile Division. In 1963, Judith opened the first full Public Relations Agency in Tucson, and 2nd in Arizona, called Judith Williams Public Relations. In the mid 70's she changed the name of the company to the JW Organization. Her firm handled local, state and National political campaigns, retail firms, UA Arts programs, public and private educational institutions and Philanthropic organizations. In the 60's and 70's Judith, as a member of The Press Club, was a writer and actor in the annual Gridiron Shows

In the Late 70's, Judith was an adjunct professor in the Public Relations/Marketing department of the UA College Business/Public Administration. She was a member of the Public Relations Society of America Professional Organization, helped charter a local chapter, and was a regional director covering Arizona, Southern California, Hawaii, and chartered a Nevada Chapter. Judith was elected to National Public Relations Society board from 1976-78 and was honored as a Fellow in 1994.

Judith was appointed as a founding Arizona Lottery Commission member and was the chairman for 18 months. She was also a member of Governor Babbitt's ad hoc Committee to bring professional football to Arizona and helped write the economic development portion of the presentation to NFL expansion committee in the early 1980's.

Judith was a director and owner of Rosequist Galleries from 1978 to 2001. After closing the gallery, she continued to offer Southwest Art Appraisal services. She was also very active with Friends of Western Art Organization. Judith was also one of the original owners of KGVY big band radio.

For 12 years, Judith was a member of the City of Tucson Civil Service Commission and was the chairman for 2. She was on the City Board of Adjustment and West University Historic District City Advisory Boards for 9 years each. She was a Past President of the UA Women Studies Advisory Council (WOSAC), Past President University Medical Center Friends, and on the advisory board of the Arizona Prevention Center, which transitioned to UA College of Public Health. Judith was a founding Board Member of the Pima Council on Aging. She was a past board member and President of the Tucson High Badger Foundation. In 2010, she was inducted into the Badger Foundation Hall of Fame. Judith was also a member of the Empire Ranch Foundation in Sonoita, AZ.

The family will be holding a Celebration of Judith's life at Lodge on the Desert on November 18, 2023, from 1:00 – 4:00 PM 306 N Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85711

In Lieu of Flowers, please make donations in her memory to The Tucson High Badger Foundation P.O. Box 5424, Tucson, AZ 85703 or The Haven 1107 E Adelaide Dr., Tucson, AZ 85719.