



## Bobette C. Rothenberg Graubarth Szyller

April 19, 1923 - March 1, 2019

Bobette C. Rothenberg Graubarth Szyller, 95, of Covington, LA passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by loved ones on March 1, 2019. Bobette was born on April 19, 1923 in Dayton, Ohio to Pauline Schadel and Lester Rothenberg. She graduated from Northwestern University and the College of Dayton Art Institute. While raising three children with her first husband, Harry Graubarth M.D., she was a vital part of the Dayton Jewish and artistic communities.

When her marriage ended, Bobette moved to New Orleans, the city she loved, dancing to the music as she also began an effort to bring vitality into nursing home care. She studied at the Ohio Commission on Aging, the Scripps Foundation Gerontology Center, and the University of Michigan. Bobette developed her own program, Longevity Therapy, wrote a book, and made several films. In 1986, Bobette married Leon Abraham Szyller and in 1993, moved to Covington, LA. Their home became a well-loved community treasure as they hosted many family parties and musical, spiritual and healing events.

Bobette remained close to her Jewish roots as a member of the Northshore Jewish Community Synagogue. She also treasured the relationships formed in the "Grandmother Group," her yoga class, and Clearwater Sanctuary meditation group. She was a longtime supporter of the Women's Center in Abita Springs.

In 2016, Bobette lost both her home and her husband, but not her spirit. She moved into a new home in Covington with her son Jon. Until the end, Bobette was a model for her own "longevity" program. Her exuberance and great style - her amazing wit, her 50 year commitment to yoga and healthy living, music, and people - made her a life-dancer, an inspiration, and teacher to many.

Bobette is survived by her sister Jeanne Betty Weiner, 98, of Sarasota, Florida and by her three children: daughter Robin Graubarth of Ann Arbor MI; son, Jonathan Graubarth of Covington, LA and daughter Heidi Vizelberg of Kenner, LA. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Maxbetter Vizelberg of Cambridge, MA and Ella M. Graubarth (Miles) of Ann Arbor, MI and great grandson, Jacob Selfridge of Ann Arbor. She is predeceased by her son in law, Igor A. Vizelberg. Bobette leaves many loved nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Services will be on Sunday March 3rd at 11:00 at E.J. Fielding Home, 2260 W. 21st

Avenue Covington, LA 70433. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Women's Center for Healing and Transformation 71667 Leveson Street, Abita Springs, LA 70420  
[www.womenscenterforhealing.org](http://www.womenscenterforhealing.org)

Share a memory on the tribute wall at [www.ejfieldingfh.com](http://www.ejfieldingfh.com)

# Cemetery

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## **Pinecrest Memorial Gardens & Crematory**

2280 W 21st Ave

Covington, LA, 70433

# Events

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**MAR** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services

2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, LA, US, 70433

**MAR** **Funeral Services** 11:00AM

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E.J. Fielding Funeral Home & Cremation Services

2260 W 21st Ave, Covington, LA, US, 70433

# Comments

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“ Bobette was a mentor, colleague, friend to me and co-conspirator with me for joy raising!  
Now with her wings is of Light her freedom is exuberantly unlimited! Thank you dear one for your magnificent presence.....:

**Mary J. Frost** - March 19 at 02:21 PM

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“ She was an amazing person and such a help to me and my mother when we lived in New Orleans. Fond memories of childhood visits to Dayton! All my love and deepest sympathy to Heidi, Jon, Robin and the rest of the Graubarth family.



**Leslie Seabright Schoeberlein** - March 15 at 11:54 AM

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“ I am graced to have known Bobette and Abraham. We worked together on training our brains for optimal functioning. Blessings

**Pamela Olano** - March 06 at 12:14 PM

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“ To the family of: Bobette Szyller  
This is a sad time for the family  
The Bible gives us hope  
Act 24:15 states: There will be a resurrection of the dead.

**Alvera Conyers** - March 04 at 03:38 PM

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“ In the 90's, I had the distinct delight to meet Bobette and her husband at their beautiful place of peace and sharing of fruit from their orchards of love in Covington. I was so touched by her inspiring energy, and will remember with fondness that chance to meet. Peace and comfort to her son, Jon, and daughters Robin and Heidi, their family and friends. Godspeed, Bobette.



**Ky Mason** - March 03 at 11:02 PM

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“ Bobette often shared this quote from the Live Oak foundation:

“Definition of an Elder:

An elder is a person who is still growing, still a learner, still with potential and whose life continues to have within it promise for, and connection to the future.

An elder is still in pursuit of happiness, joy and pleasure, and his or her birthright to these remains intact. Moreover, an elder is a person who deserves respect and honor and whose work it is to synthesize wisdom from life experience and formulate this into a legacy for future generations.”

Thank you, dear Bobette, for being an elder to our entire community.

**Patricia Stout** - March 03 at 05:24 PM

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“ I had the privilege of working with Bobette in her Longevity Therapy program. She used such a skillful combination of science, deep and broad faith, and general clowning around. I will never forget elders in the hospital who had had a stroke and could not move one of their arms. Bobette would throw the big orange balloon across the room, while singing oldies and smiling, and an elder would say “I can’t do that” while at the same time, raising BOTH arms to hit the balloon, much to her own surprise! I sometimes hear of someone who does not have “I can’t” in their vocabulary, and Bobette took it a step further to get “I can’t” out of every cell of her body! ...and to show others to do the same. I was profoundly affected by her positive approach to aging. As a young woman, I loved hearing how she hung upside down every day to stay healthy! Like many in our community, I enjoyed variety of healing circles and ceremonies with Bobette, infused with meaning. Coming to her 75th and 90th birthday parties were highlights for me, along with our many quiet talks. At her service today, so artfully woven by Rabbi Gerber, I saw her light reflected in all the lives she touched. May we continue to twinkle with her light of presence and possibility.

Much gratitude to her family and closest family friends for a beautiful service and for their generosity and inclusion.

**Patricia Stout** - March 03 at 05:20 PM

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“ Dear Robin ... I remember  
Your Mother and Father quite vividly. She was always so lively and smiling. You  
picked up on her traits that's why it was fun being with you in high school. A beautiful  
fulfilling life well lived. My deepest sorrow for your loss.

Susi Sower Hansen

Susan Sower Hansen - March 03 at 11:27 AM

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“ I've been blessed to know Bobette for 25 years. She was the BEST role model for  
being a human being...a woman....a grandmother. She was a person of the "greatest  
generation." that is, World War !! to the present time, and she influenced so many  
people of various walks of life with her love and compassion. Bobette is a beam of  
light who will shine for me and others forever.  
Angie Howell

Angie Howell - March 03 at 10:38 AM

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“ Bobette will always be in my heart. The awesome memories of love and laughter  
will stay with me forever . What a blessing to have been a friend of Bobette Love  
you

Terry Marcades - March 03 at 08:56 AM

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“ Having Bobette a part of my life in the past several years has been an inspiration and  
a joy. She always had a sincere smile on her face and words of encouragement and  
grace. I felt a part of her yoga group and the “grandmother group” she founded from  
the first moment because of the enthusiasm and love that she shared. The angels  
may be singing but the earth sheds tears.

Carol Aldridge - March 02 at 06:51 PM

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“ God guided me to Bobette 2 years ago. I thank Him for that.  
We loved, lived, and laughed. Lots of laughter. We danced in the rain and sang. She  
taught me so much about myself. But most of all, she taught me love.  
What an amazing lady! I will miss her like crazy!  
Love Forever,  
Gina



“ Bobette lived life to its fullest, embracing and enjoying every day with the love and energy that she shared with everyone in her path. She may be gone, but she will never be forgotten. Keep dancing Bobette!

**Donna Bush** - March 02 at 04:43 PM



“ Bobette was a wonderful inspiration and friend. What grace and beauty!

**David Campbell** - March 03 at 04:44 PM

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“ I first met Bobette in 1990 at a couples retreat. She always seemed the embodiment of acceptance, respect, peace, and kindness - with a touch of humor. I am so glad to have made her acquaintance.

Diane Casteel

**Diane Casteel** - March 02 at 03:30 PM