



With shining blue eyes and a petite stature which belied her commanding presence and her vibrant, witty personality, Deborah Carol Gailfus (neè Schachter), transitioned peacefully on May 10, 2026 in Carlsbad; from complications related to Myelodysplastic Syndrome and congestive heart failure. Carlsbad and San Diego had been Debbie's home for over 35 years.

Born Doba Kayla Schachter on August 28, 1946, in Berlin, Germany, Debbie was the first child of Dora and Henry Schacter, Polish Holocaust survivors who found love in the aftermath of their liberation.

Soon after her birth, the Schachter family immigrated to New York where Doba Kayla became Deborah Carol. Eventually moving across country to Los Angeles, Debbie grew up with two younger brothers, Jeff and Leonard, who both preceded her passing.

Married to her loving husband Alan Gailfus for over 40 years, Debbie is survived by Alan, as well as Todd Wolfe and Jillian Montoya, her two children from a prior marriage. Debbie is also survived by three grandchildren, Sophia, Khai and Henry who all affectionately refer to her as "DG".

In her lifetime, Debbie was defined by devotion to her family, by grace, by intelligence and by a warm, welcoming nature. Debbie found love with Alan, friendship and a career with the American Contract Bridge League. An avid player, Debbie was a life-master many times over, played internationally and, with her lifelong partner Alan, traveled the world as a highly sought-after teaching duo, introducing countless new players to the game and making friends everywhere.

Debbie's family will hold a private celebration of life. The family, however, asks that for anyone wishing to make a charitable donation in her name, to direct those kind efforts to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

