



## Sara Jane LeBien

November 21, 1933 - January 14, 2018

After a long battle with a rare neurological disease, Sara LeBien died peacefully in her home Sunday night (Jan. 14). Her husband, Bob, son Mark and daughter-in-law Lori were at her side.

Born Sara Jane Spradling on November 21, 1933, she was the daughter of George Carroll Spradling and Dorothy Jenkins Spradling. Her older brother was the late George "Sprad" Spradling of Indianapolis.

Sara was born in Marion, Indiana, and grew up in Indianapolis. She was a graduate of Howe High School and Butler University, and was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta. She remained active in Theta alumni activities for many years, volunteering as an advisor and archivist.

She married Robert Frank LeBien of Indianapolis in 1957. She was the mother of Mark Darrell LeBien of Atlanta, Georgia, and Michael Robert LeBien of Carlsbad, California, who died in 2015.

Sara was a primary school teacher in Indianapolis; in Killeen, Texas while her husband served in the U.S. Army; and in the Bloomington area while her husband attended graduate school at Indiana University. The latter teaching job was at a two-room schoolhouse that later became Marlin Elementary School.

Bob and Sara moved to the Los Angeles area in the early 1960s. For 30 years she did volunteer work at schools, museums, churches, Meals on Wheels, the 1984 Summer Olympics and the Los Angeles Native American Center.

She was a docent at Los Angeles County art and history museums and the UCLA Museum of Cultural History. She wrote a guidebook, *Museums of Southern California*, which was published in 1988.

In the early 1990s Bob and Sara moved back to Indiana, settling in Bloomington. Sara was a docent at the Indiana University Art Museum and served on its national advisory board. She tutored in America Reads programs at Bloomington elementary schools, and did volunteer work at the Bloomington Hospital Children's Therapy Clinic and at Middle Way House, including its Rise! project. She also was involved in P.E.O. International and the Nineteenth Century Club.

Bob and Sara were involved in the founding of the Immune Deficiency Foundation (IDF), based in Towson, Maryland. They saw the need for a national organization dedicated to improving the diagnosis and treatment of persons with primary immunodeficiency diseases after their son Mike was diagnosed. Sara wrote an illustrated booklet, *Our Immune System*, which was published by the IDF and has been translated into more than a dozen languages and distributed around the world.

Preparing books for her family members was one of Sara's delights. She assembled three volumes of family history, and she enjoyed making scrapbooks and picture books for her grandchildren.

Sara is survived by her husband, Bob, her son Mark, two daughters in law and five grandchildren.

Private family services are being conducted by Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37. A public Gathering to Celebrate Sara's Life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made in Sara's honor to the Immune Deficiency Foundation 110 West Road Suite 300 Towson, MD 21204

Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com).

# Tribute Wall

PM

“ Dear Bob and family,

*Sarah was a remarkable person -- the most kind, gentle, and giving person we've ever known. She will always remain so dear in our hearts.*

*Patti and Joel Meier*

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**Patti and Joel Meier** - January 22, 2018 at 05:12 PM

EM

“ Dear Bob and family,

*Sara's love was a radiant gift to those she touched throughout her life. She will remain present in the hearts of many.*

*Sincerely, Ed and Leslie Maxedon*



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**Ed Maxedon** - January 18, 2018 at 03:09 PM

JF

*Bob, I am so sorry to hear this. You are in my thoughts and prayers.  
Love, Joan Ferguson 🙏*

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**Joan Ferguson** - January 19, 2018 at 03:54 PM

MB

“ Sara and Bob participated in our Board meeting when we shared the first draft of the Immune Deficiency Foundation’s Patient and Family Handbook in the late 1980’s. Sara was concerned that there was no information specifically for children. Not long afterwards, she sent me a copy of an illustrated draft she developed for children, *Our Immune System*. That book has become one of the most popular resources on primary immunodeficiency for families and children around the world. We don’t even know into how many languages it had been translated, but more than a dozen. She was a caring and wonderful person, who my husband and I will miss.

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**Marcia Boyle** - January 17, 2018 at 04:53 PM

ED

*Thank you Dr LeBein for the tireless efforts to educate physicians about understanding and caring for patients with immune deficiency all across the US. You were an advocate for many and made a real difference.*

*A diagnosis should bring answers and a treatment not assumptions, misunderstanding from non clinical immunologists or games from insurers in conflict with the patient's needs. LeBein did good. To continue LeBein traveling fellowship to hospitals and grand rounds would be nice but even stronger, I hope other immune deficiency physicians will assemble as a group of patient advocates to give free access or a letter to a patient, a medical director, a state, social security reviewer or primary care to remind anyone without training to ignore the guidelines a patient has been following needs adjustment for or specialty care of treatment is not to care for an immune deficiency properly and therefore malpractice or something to that effect.*

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**E.L. Dugan** - January 19, 2018 at 04:26 PM