

A Tribute to Helen Rosenthal

(by her second son, Jeff)

I will be forever grateful to my mother, Helen Rosenthal. She was so kind and generous, and sacrificed so much to raise her three sons.

Indeed, every major aspect of my life was influenced by her:

- I am a professional mathematician – and this started when my mother taught me many math ideas way beyond the curriculum I was getting at school. I remember one time, when I was about ten years old, she showed me how to derive the quadratic formula!

- I am a published author – and I learned to write well because my mother always corrected my homework essays and taught me how to improve them, and get the sentences and the grammar right.

- I sometimes perform music – and this followed from the piano and trumpet lessons that my mom drove me to, week after week, for many years. Not to mention buying musical instruments for me to play, and putting up with all of my awful music practicing.

- I am a large man – about 6' 3" – and this is because of all the wonderful food my mom served me over so many years, from healthy breakfasts, to hearty lunches, to delicious dinners like Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Shepherd's Pie, Beef Stroganoff, and so much more. Not to mention buying me approximately ten thousand litres of milk!

- In my best moments, I try to be kind towards others – and this is because my mom set such a good example, always showing us kindness and being so thoughtful about our needs and desires.

My mom had a great life, though it ended too soon. She was always grateful for her family and friends and neighbours, and the caring that they showed. I am very pleased that you are all here today to celebrate the life of this remarkable woman.