Obituary: Rena Gitlitz  
  
Rena Mindel Gitlitz, 71, a devoted mother, social worker, and fierce  
advocate for the underserved, passed away peacefully on September 10, 2024.  
Born on February 4, 1953, in Montreal, Canada, Rena was the beloved  
daughter of the late Yitzchak David Bialy and Basia Liba Hirshfeld.  
  
Rena's academic journey began at the Yeshiva of Flatbush, where she  
graduated in 1970. She pursued higher education at Brooklyn College,  
earning her bachelor’s degree, followed by a Master of Social Work from  
Yeshiva University’s Wurzweiler School of Social Work. These achievements  
laid the foundation for a lifelong commitment to those who often go  
unheard—homeless individuals, those struggling with mental illness, and  
others in need of a voice and a hand.  
  
Her work embodied a deep commitment to the values of empathy, justice, and  
kindness, and her efforts touched and changed many lives.  
  
Rena is survived by her sons David and Daniel, daughter Miriam,  
daughter-in-laws Jennifer and Ambria, and grandsons Benjamin and Nathan.  
  
Graveside services were held at Somerset Hills Memorial Park in Basking  
Ridge, NJ, where family and friends gathered to honor her memory.  
  
Rena’s life was a testament to the power of selflessness and compassion,  
and her legacy will live on in the lives she touched. She will be deeply  
missed but lovingly remembered by all who knew her.