

Ric Supple did it his way

Tracy Conrad

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Much has been written about the good works of Ric and Rozene Supple, but they themselves are an interesting story. Their partnership of nearly half a century was interrupted on May 4th with the death of Ric, a couple of months short of his 96th birthday. He would say it was a good run.

Ric and Rozene were not aloof philanthropists, or silly socialites, they were supremely interested in the world around them. They have been highly engaged with multiple aspects of the community for decades...five decades, for which we all owe a debt of gratitude. That Palm Springs has a first-rate art theater is due entirely to their largess. They worked tirelessly to establish and promote the film festival, supported the hospital and hospital district, donated generously to the high school, were job creators and quiet benefactors to scores of families, and endowed the cultural center.

Ric was a handsome and highly accomplished businessman when he and Rozene met again at their twentieth Stanford University reunion after the untimely passing of their respective spouses. And it was easy to understand why they might hit it off. Bright, energetic and engaged, they were young and resilient, and both were suddenly single. Out of tragic loss, Ric and Rozene forged a new and fascinating life, and the desert is so much better for it.

Their relationship has been marked by music, wit and mutual respect. Ric was an engaging conversationalist. Interested, funny, quick to a joke or pun, and when delivering a punch line, he sported an impish twinkle in his eye. The repartee of "The Ric and Rozene Show" was endlessly amusing. They kept each other on their game for half a century.

Ric was a dedicated Stanford fan, what is now known as a super-fan. He could hold forth on the Cardinal's latest exploit in whatever sport. He played football and rugby during college and even served a stint as a cheerleader when he was out injured one season.

In his later years he was still very actively engaged in the world, not shy in evaluating the politics of the day or debating the news. But most importantly, Ric was full of fun and good stories. He knew how to have a party — caviar and a



Desert philanthropist Ric Supple was said to be good company. COURTESY OF THE PALM SPRINGS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

martini, smart attire and a big smile. Always a gentleman, he was deeply appreciative and admiring of women. The universe understood this and appropriately reciprocated by blessing him with six daughters! To talk with Ric was to be heard, sincerely queried, and edified by what he had to share in return. Ric was good company; it was no wonder Rozene kept him around for 50 years.

As one often does when encountering people of wisdom and of an older age, it was natural for many people to ask about the obvious strength of Ric and Rozene's enduring relationship. They have answered the question a lot in recent years. Ric would make some clever and amusing comment meant to gently provoke and engage Rozene in banter. Not to be bested, Rozene quipped about the secret to their long relationship: She married him "for life, not for lunch." And what a life indeed!

Ric and Rozene have had a truly remarkable life together — one of genuine and important accomplishment, service to others, family and good works, mutual respect, and a lot of laughs. Ric will be dearly missed.

Tracy Conrad is president of the Palm Springs Historical Society. The Thanks for the Memories column appears Sundays in The Desert Sun. Write to her at pshstracy@gmail.com.