

The words “I remember” capture the essence of my husband Arnie, because he is now only a memory for those who knew and loved him. As are our 45 years of shared experiences with friends and relatives. The places where we worked. Trips to famous or scenic or simply interesting places all over the world. Synagogues where we worshipped or celebrated. Accidents, illnesses, and hospitalizations we endured. .

I remember being a member of OBOT. Intense, lengthy, and productive meetings in which I befriended very literate members. Dining with some acclaimed authors before they spoke before rapt audiences. The incredible satisfaction of participating in OBOT and helping make it successful.

Then life’s stresses led me to resign from the committee. Fortunately, Arnie volunteered to replace me. He totally enjoyed meeting with the group, reading books under consideration, and attending and sometimes moderating the programs themselves. I vicariously remained a part of the whole adventure.

A new book of memories evolved when Arnie and I moved to Boise in July, 2019, to live closer to our daughter’s family. Although Sharon memories still occupied an enormous part of my brain, a new space in my mind opened up, and numerous new items were deposited in it, as in a new chapter of a mental book that was being written by and for us.

Then last June Arnie himself was suddenly transformed into a memory. Writing this essay makes me realize that my life since his death is becoming yet another memory. And thanks to OBOT, I recognize that everything ultimately becomes just that, a series of memories, each chapter of which is like one in *The Stationery Shop*. They provide meaning and should remind us that in many ways they are at least as important as those memories that we are currently creating. From now on, however, I want to be sure to create them with care, knowing that I can’t change them once they are part of the past. As a memory, Arnie is still with me now, as real as the memories that I continue to make without him.