



RABBI AVRAHAM "AVI" COHEN

November 27, 1951 - February 15, 2026

Funeral Service Monday, 2/16/2026, 12:30 PM, at Hebrew Memorial Chapel.
More information will be posted when available

The chapel service will be webcast.

Rabbi Avraham "Avi" Cohen, age 74, of Southfield MI, passed away
2/15/2026

SHIVA:

The family will be observing Shiva at the Cohen residence

Golda Cohen

25191 Prairie Drive

Southfield MI 48075

Through Sunday morning.

Shacharis, 8:30 AM

Mincha, 1:30 PM

Maariv, 9:00 PM

Note, the family requests privacy between the hours of 6:00 - 7:00 PM

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you wish to further elevate the soul of Rabbi Cohen, of blessed memory,
please add Torah study and a mitzvah to your day.

Donations may also be made to Yeshiva Beth Yehuda in his memory.

Cemetery Details

Workmen's Circle Cemetery/Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery

33550 Gratiot
Clinton Township, MI

Previous Events

FUNERAL

FEB **16**. 12:30 PM (ET)

Hebrew Memorial Chapel
26640 Greenfield Rd
Oak Park, MI 48237
(248) 543-1622
info@hebrewmemorial.org
<https://www.hebrewmemorial.org/>

Shiva

FEB **16** to **22** (ET)

Golda Cohen
25191 Prairie Drive
Southfield, MI 48075

Shacharis, 8:30 AM. Mincha, 1:30 PM. Maariv, 9:00 PM. Note, the family requests privacy between the hours of 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of RABBI AVRAHAM "AVI" COHEN



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - February 16 at 08:49 AM



My husband, Larry Snide, of blessed memory, loved Rabbi Avi Cohen very much. He went to Partners for 20 years and from the beginning he looked forward to Tuesday nights, he wanted to get there an hour or so early so he could help with whatever was needed to prepare the tables whether it was putting out water or just getting everything prepared. It was very important for him to be there and to be helpful to the Rabbi. He appreciated everything. The Rabbi told them and taught him. He matched him with one partner, and when he wasn't able to continue on, he found another partner to work with him. He was always very understanding and kind to Larry.. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him.

Debbie Levin

Debra Levin - February 16 at 02:05 PM

CF

My very massive sympathy to Rabbi Cohen's family. I was away, came home and left Rabbi Cohen a message but didn't hear back. I am on the phone now with my beloved friend in Israel, Phyllis Koenigsberg, and she just told me the news. What a tremendous loss for us all. He was a beacon of light and guidance for me.

Cindy Frenkel - February 17 at 01:54 PM

CF

Tears are streaming down my face; he was the embodiment of Jewish values.

Cindy Frenkel - February 17 at 01:55 PM

AB

Blessing to memory, Rabbi Avi Cohen. May his neshoma have an Aliyah!

Anna Beznosov - February 17 at 04:58 PM

EL

I studied with this wonderfully kind and intelligent man at partners in Torah for the past few months. I was going through treatment and he always asked how I was doing and so very concerned. I will miss him so much.

elhermanmd@hotmail.com - February 17 at 06:06 PM

WM

Rabbi Cohen audited my tank cleaning tank wash in Kingsport, TN. He gave me the best compliment I have ever received, he said I've been all through the southeast auditing tank cleaning facilities and their procedures and I must say you are the only one I Trust. It made me feel so good I couldn't wait to get home and tell her how I felt how He respected me! He was a good man.

*Take Care,
William H. Miller
M.T. Clean, llc Kingsport , TN*

William Howard Miller - February 22 at 04:33 AM

“ Dear Mrs. Cohen, children and grandchildren,
I have been thinking about your husband, your father, your grandfather. The memories come in pieces. Not in order. So I am writing them the way they come. And I know that I’m gonna have more memories, but this is what I am putting on paper at the moment.

When I was a kid our house had all kinds of tapes and records. Double cassettes from Time for Music. The Simcha Machine. Rechartizer Rejects. Carole King. James Taylor. Chicago. But the one tape I loved most was a simple recording of my parents’ Sheva Brachos.

There were songs on there I have never heard anywhere else. David Simcha’s thick voice, cut sharp and strong. And the guitar of Avi Cohen holding it all together.. One song in particular, Samechuni ba-ashishos. We called it babalooei. I can still hear it.

I sung a song last night at the Shabbos table..

When I think back to those years I also think of Mogen Av before it was redone. Actually, it was at least two renovations ago. You walk in the shul Mendel Weiss in his chair right next to the door and all the way to the left in the corner was the Candyman. And of course, throughout the shul, the red vinyl chairs were ripped and we kids would pull at the stuffing. Every once in a while the candy man corner would get busy with a bunch of boys who came in from somewhere I think it was New York, his grandkids, especially around Yom Tov time. For some reason I remember the kids wearing vests. Maybe they did wear a vest or maybe that’s just how I remember it.

In 4th grade we heard a new principal was coming. My parents told me, make sure you tell him your last name is Sherizen. He’ll now who you are.

We stood in line with Rabbi Skaist to say shalom. I remember exactly where I was standing. Outside the old office, across from the bathroom with the glass showcase. I told him my name. He said, I know your parents. Sure I know your parents.

Little did he know how much time I would spend in his office.

I was not an easy kid. I spent many hours in office. He would fidget

with his pens and with silly putty. He gave me lines. So many lines to write. Writing again and again what I would not do. Not go to 7-Eleven. Not go to Bagels Plus during school. I happen to think the method was not very effective, but that was chinuch in the 90s. But it was better than getting the yard stick treatment from the 80s. (Agav, I'm not sure what happened to the yard sticks. Seems like there's a mass extinction about 20 years ago.)

I was not a big fan of the principal. I think the feeling was mutual. This is actually the second time I am writing about him. The first time was a hate letter. I had gotten into serious trouble during recess me and a few boys gave ourselves a very extended recess. 15 minutes, turned into an hour and we were up to serious no good. It went too far. The police were called. We were brought back to school in a police car and escorted into his office. It was bad. I was so embarrassed, but I think he was even more embarrassed. He was really upset. And of course we got some consequences. Don't recall what it was.

I went home angry and wrote a letter about how much I hate Rabbi Cohen. I locked it in my combination box. It was my way of dealing with it.

And still...

...he was cool.

Super cool.

He was a great guitar player. He had this percussive style, muting the strings with his left hand. He pulled a lot of sound out of six strings. I think it was an Epiphone sunburst with a small amp. It was not fancy. He made so much sound.

He had his songs, Ninth Man on the Team etc.

On Rosh Chodesh Adar he would play at the assembly. He had that green mask with sequins that looked like it came from Mardi Gras. Every year it came out. He would ask who wants George. The kids would cheer. He would walk out near the washing station and come back in wearing the mask. That was George. He would go in and out, and come back as George again, playing guitar. It was simple and it worked.

We want George, we want George!

In seventh grade he taught science for a stretch. It felt like a rite of

passage, I think for the principal and students alike. We had already had other teachers Mr. Schiff. DC Weissberg and now it was the principal. He used the book, *Our Amazing World*. He was a real maamin and he tried to give us that sense of hispalus. The class was out of hand at first, but after a few days there was this feeling of "hey it's interesting, the man he is no fool.

I still remember lessons. Buoyancy. Cohesion, capillaries. Surface tension. Water displacement. Archimedes and the crown. I remember burning potato chips to measure fat content. I had no flippin clue what was going on all I know is that burning potato chips in class was a lot of fun. He also dyo/ink in a beaker with a Bunsen burner. It stuck...Like mitzvah glue.

Years later I came back to Detroit and learned at Levine's Kollel. Your father joined. It was different seeing him there. He had a lot of energy. When someone said a sevara he did not like he made this boioiing sound or wa wa waaaaah.

We still argued about the age of the universe, the Mabul, dinosaurs. Same conversations as years before. He had an eizenfest emunah. When I heard he was sick I felt sad. He was always so alive. It is hard to imagine that kind of energy fading.

I got the calling post.

Whenever I get a calling post, I'm not sure if I'm gonna hear the Mazel Tov- Mazel Tov or the we regret to inform you. It's always a long few seconds.

When I heard he would be buried in the Gratiot cemetery I smiled. Kevurah in Eretz Yisrael is beautiful. But being buried in Detroit, the city he gave his life to... so so tzu gepast.

These are some of my memories.

My bracha to you is that the good memories stay close. The music. The memories of a lively father playing with his kids. I know he was a very involved father.

And when you catch yourself doing something, saying something, thinking something because that is what your father would have done, or because that is how he taught you to see the world, or simply because you absorbed it from him without even realizing, you should smile and hold him close in that moment.

It was in honor, knowing your father.

*With respect,
Moshe Sherizen*

Moshe Sherizen - February 21 at 09:02 PM

AA

“ *There are no words to describe this loss. Rabbi Avi Cohen "was" Detroit.*

He dedicated his life to spreading the authentic light of Torah and uplifting others with kindness and the knowledge Hashem. His beautiful family continue his life and legacy—living lives of Torah, spreading kavod shomayim, and teaching & educating others—throughout Detroit, Cleveland, Monsey, Lakewood, Deal, and beyond.

May הקב"ה bentch and be מנחם the family, children and grandchildren, and the Rebbetzin, Mrs. Cohen תחי"ה, the stalwart partner in R' Avi's mission and accomplishments.

R' Avi's presence, hashpaha, guidance, and direction will be sorely missed by his many friends, admirers, and students. May his נשמה have an עליה.

יהי זכרון ברוך

An Admirer - February 16 at 04:46 PM

LA

“ Rabbi Avi was my youngest’s Bris, and helped him study for his Bar mitzvah and then when Partners in Torah started , early on he found me a Torah Partner, Dr. Janet Snider. He made a difference in our lives with kindness and and carrying. I cannot say enough about him. Or give my deep respect and love to Golda and the whole family. He blessed us with his presence!
Laura Aronson

Laura Aronson - February 16 at 01:03 PM

DB

Rabbi Avi Cohen , alov hashalom, taught my son and was principal of Bais Yehudah while my sons were there. He also performed the bris on my grandson - he went all the way to State College, Pennsylvania to do it! And he set me up with my partner, Anita Zelman! He was a wonderful, warm, humble man and will be sorely missed .

devorah * Lisa Berget - February 22 at 01:16 PM

SM

“ Rabbi Cohen was so kind to me and my husband when we moved to town. He set me up with the best chavrusa in partners and also did my son's bris. He will be very missed in the community.

Sarita Minkin - February 16 at 12:58 PM

GT

“ Will be missed **PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY**

GROENDYKE TRANSPORT - February 16 at 12:44 PM

SB

“ Rabbi Avi Cohen was a devoted friend and guide to the Sephardic Community of Greater Detroit (now Congregation Keter Torah in West Bloomfield, Mi) from the time he arrived in Michigan in the 70's or 80's. My brother David Chicorel was President and the two started our first Sunday Minyan upstairs at a small shul in Oak Park. When I became President in 1989, following David's passing, Rabbi Cohen guided me and was always ready to help. Rabbi Avi Cohen once informed me that his father was Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic Congregation in Rochester, New York. Rabbi Avi Cohen was a blessed soul, always ready to help, with kindness.

*Shirley Sarah Chicorel Behar
Laguna Woods, CA*

Shirley Sarah Chicorel Behar - February 16 at 12:35 PM

SD

“ When my son was born early, we had to delay his bris until he was six weeks old. Those weeks were filled with worry and uncertainty as we focused on his health and waited for the doctor’s approval. The moment we received the go-ahead, my father let Uncle Avi know.

Without hesitation — without even blinking — Uncle Avi immediately flew to New York. I didn’t have to ask. He didn’t question it. He didn’t complain. He simply came.

He performed my son’s bris free of charge, with the biggest smile and the warmest “Mazel Tov.” After weeks of stress and concern, his presence alone lifted an enormous weight off our shoulders. He handled everything with such calm, warmth, and confidence that what could have been another stressful moment became one of relief, gratitude, and joy.

He flew back home the very same day. That was Uncle Avi. Always ready to do chessed. Always eager to help. So warm, so kind, so loving. He didn’t just perform a bris — he carried us through a difficult time and turned it into a memory filled with light.

That’s who he was: someone who jumped at every opportunity to do kindness, quietly and wholeheartedly.

shlomo david - February 16 at 10:45 AM

JR

“ 2 files added to the album *Partners In Torah Israel Trip*



Jeffrey Rosenbaum - February 16 at 10:43 AM

MM

“I had with him a Bris of life and well-being, which I gave to him, and of reverence, which he showed Me, for he stood in awe of My name. Torah of truth were in his mouth, and nothing perverse was on his lips; he served Me with Shalom and straightness and returned many back from sin. For the lips of a Kohain guard knowledge, and Torah are sought from his mouth; for he is a Malach of Hashem Tzvako.” (Malachi 2:5-7)

"But your brethren, the whole house of Yisrael, shall bewail the burning that Hashem has wrought." (Vayikra 10:6)

"But in the future it says" (Moed Katan 3:9) "Hashem Elokim will wipe away tears from all the faces" (Yeshaya 28:8)

Menachem Moshe Mendelsohn

Menachem Moshe Mendelsohn - February 16 at 10:12 AM



“I was a student in YBY when Rabbi Avi Cohen was the principal there. He always had the patience and the time for me, whether it was as a student or finding me a partner for Partners in Torah. I will miss seeing his warm smile. He taught me a lot about letting the little things go and focusing on the bigger picture. He will be remembered.

Ethan Solomon - February 16 at 06:17 AM

PA

Rabbi Avi Cohen was THE best, in so many ways. He was not just smart, but also wise; he was not just understanding, but compassionate; and he was not just a great man, but a צדיק. I was fortunate enough and privileged to know Avi Cohen for close to 30 years and study with him for almost 27 years. Baruch Dayan Ha-emet.

Peter M. Alter - February 16 at 01:48 PM

SB

“ I have so many wonderful memories with Rabbi
He helped our family on so many levels Spiritually, and we carried
our friendship over the years with all the ups and downs in our life,
and he always had good things to say, one of my favorite memories;
he was at my son's wedding as a guest, but stepped in to officiate
because the local rabbi didn't know the Sephardic customs ... it was
a great save and a wonderful chuppa! Our family will miss you, and
thank you for all that you have done for our community 🙏

Suzi Benaderet - February 15 at 09:47 PM

SS

He loved his children. When I visited Detroit and introduced myself as a
bother in law of R' Eliyahu Shlit"a, I tried giving him a nachas report on
R' Eliyahu, but he immediately cut me off and continued on for a few
minuets on his own , describing his Torah, his Aliya, his hashpa'ah on
the community around him, and on and on , all with such exuberance
that i couldn't get in a word edgewise.

Shmuel Shuchatowitz - February 16 at 01:07 PM

AS

Dear Reb Avi (Ta'aleh l'maaloh l'maaloh): Where does one begin? The Gemmoroh teaches us that when a person is Niftar, HKBH tells His holiest angels to go down and listen to what is being said about that individual. Of course that anecdote itself raises questions within our minds. Why do the angels have to come down and pay attention to the eulogies, and read the comments in this format? Hashem surely knows what will be said. But the deeper explanations are not for here. No doubt, those angels had lots of notes to record at the Hebrew Memorial Chapel during the extremely inspiring funeral for Horav Avrohom Sholom ben Horav Shlomo Dovid Hakohen z.y.a.

Those family members, friends and protégé who were not there in person, need to know that very rarely have there been overflowing crowds of attendees at our Chapel. Standing room only throughout the building! In the main Chapel, in the lobby, in the small Chapel, and in the front entrance lobby reserved for Kohanim!! I'll bet that our Heavenly Winged Visitors were able to calculate the exact number of community members of every segment of our wonderful community, who left their businesses, medical offices, and Yeshivos and Kollelim, to be present and pay their respects to our/their Rebbe, Rabbi Avi Cohen Z"L. Each of us had our own personal connection with him. Whether he taught our children at YBY, set us up with our Partner in Torah, sometimes more than once, or perhaps he was the Mohel at a family Bris. Or whatever your connection to this angel in human garb may have been. Obviously, volumes can be written to represent each individual's reason for wanting to be there. What a phenomenal person he was! How blessed has our community been to have had Reb Avi z"l in our midst for so many years! More than I have written can yet be said, and no doubt it will be expressed by those who visit the family during this week of Shiva.

*And folks- let's not forget what a talented musician Reb Avi was, as he demonstrated his guitar and singing skills on various occasions before certain Chaggim, on those special Partners evenings, in past years! Y'HI ZICHROH BORUCH! To the entire Cohen family: HaMakom Yenachem Esschem B'soch She'ahr Aveiley Tzion v'Yerushalayim!!
- Reb Avie & Morah Shelly Shapiro*

Avie Shapiro - February 17 at 01:14 AM

ND

I have known Rabbi Cohen for over 40 years. Whatever I would come back to Detroit, I was guaranteed the warmest and most caring smile. He brought tremendous kavod Ha-Torah everywhere he went.

Nachum Duchin - February 17 at 11:57 AM

DW

Memorial Message:
ברוך דין האמת. בשורות טובות.

*המקום ינחם את המשפחה בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.
May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and
Jerusalem. May we all share and celebrate happy occasions in the
future.*

Deborah Pearl Weiss, Monsey

Debora Pearl Weiss - February 18 at 05:31 PM

WM

My name is Bill Miller, owner of M.T. Clean in Kingsport Tn. I met Rabbi Avraham Cohen in Kingsport, TN. I was assigned to clean Kosher tank trailers for Eastman chemical co. My contact with the Kosher community was through Rabbi Cohen. He audited tank washes that were Kosher certified and gave me one of the best compliments I've ever had. He said I've been through the Southeast auditing tank washes and you my friend are one that I really trust. I felt so good about what he said I couldn't wait to get home and tell my wife and family. He was a wonderful man and good to me.

*Bill Miller
M.T.Clean, llc*

William H. Miller - February 26 at 08:27 PM

AG

I am out of Detroit for many years now, but I do remember Rabbi Avi Cohen when he was with the Kollel on Lincoln. I use to learn therre myself and hee even was sofer who fixed my father's megilla. Sorry to hear of his passing and exend Tanchumim to his family.

*Alan Gordon
Jerusalem, Israel*

Alan Gordon - March 08 at 12:35 PM