



BELLA WAIS

June 29, 1941 - February 19, 2024

CHAPEL SERVICE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2024, AT 10 A.M. AT
HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

***THE CHAPEL SERVICE WILL BE WEBCAST AND AVAILABLE TO VIEW
ON THIS WEB PAGE ***

Bella Wais, age 82, of West Bloomfield died on February 19, 2024.

Beloved mother of Michael (Lisa) Wais, Daniel (Angela) Wais, and Roz Wais.
Proud grandmother of many and great-grandmother of one.
Caring sister of Robert Rimmer, Sylvia (the late Dr. Larry) Lee, and Sidney
(Jackie) Greenbaum.

INTERMENT:

Beth Moses/Beth AHM
20711 Masonic Blvd.
Roseville, MI 48066
(no procession)

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Steven Rubenstein

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva following the interment on Wednesday through Thursday then on Sunday through Monday at the residence of:

Michael and Lisa Wais

3263 Woodview Lake Road

West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Religious Services will be held at 7:00 P.M.

If you wish to honor the memory of BELLA WAIS, you may do so by donating to a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Beth Moses/Beth AHM

20711 Masonic Blvd
Roseville, MI

Previous Events

FUNERAL

FEB **21**. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

Shiva

FEB **21** to **22** (ET)

Michael and Lisa Wais
3263 Woodview Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Religious Services held at 7 P.M.

Shiva

FEB **25** to **26** (ET)

Michael and Lisa Wais
3263 Woodview Lake Road
West Bloomfield, MI 48323

Religious Services held at 7 P.M.

Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of BELLA WAIS



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - February 20, 2024 at 04:45 PM

SK

sorry i could not be with you all. bella was a beautiful person inside and out. i was llucky to know her. may her memory be a blessing. sharron kreindler

sharron kreindler - February 21, 2024 at 01:31 PM

JS

“ We worked with Bella researching the Rimmer and Grinbaum/Greenbaum families to find as much information as possible for Bella and her story. We spoke to other family members (including Kanu (Greenbaum) Kogard and Toba Greenbaum – daughters of Bella’s brother Benjamin Grinbaum), received the records that Bella’s brother, Robert Rimmer, provided, and even located records in Germany of the exact date and locations of her parent’s murders in Auschwitz. With this information we then created a Rimmer/Grinbaum Family Tree on Ancestry.com and have included the information we found along with photos as available. While I am currently the host for the tree it will be made available to any family member who wishes to use it or add to it as a living memory for Bella and the family as this is what she wanted.

Feel free to reach out to us (Jim at jamesmccarthysr@hibernalc.com and Pam at pamelamccarthy@hibernalc.com) to receive any of the information we have gathered with Bella or access to the family tree on Ancestry.com (Please Note: You will need an Ancestry account to have access).

It was such a privilege to have met and worked with Bella. She was one of a kind and we know we are better for having known her. Again, our sincerest and warmest condolences to the family and all who knew and loved her. She will be cherished and sorely missed. Our hope is to honor her by telling the amazing story of “La Petite Bella” so everyone will know the warm, strong, and passionate survivor we knew. May she rest in peace.

JAMES A MCCARTHY SR - February 28, 2024 at 12:09 PM

JS

“ My wife Pam and I were devastated and truly heartbroken when we heard the news of Bella’s passing. Our warmest and sincerest condolences to the entire family for your loss of this most beloved, wonderful, and fascinating woman.

We met her through my father, Justin H McCarthy Jr, in Boca Raton/Deerfield Beach Florida. He had met her at a Bridge card game social and they hit it off right away. He did not initially know her story but over time she felt comfortable enough to share it with him. He was shocked yet very intrigued as to how this sweet and loving woman had survived WWII under Nazi rule. So much so that he came to us and suggested we sit down with her to hear about it and possibly tell her story in a film.

We went to her immaculate condo to meet her for the first time. Dad introduced us to this wonderful spark of a woman who was so friendly and excited to meet us but kept wondering why we thought her story was so interesting or should be told. Here was Bella in her element. She and Pam seemed to hit it off talking about politics and hair styles. Two things I know she was very passionate about (especially politics). Honest and genuine with a wry sense of humor, she asked how a guy like me was able to marry such a beautiful woman. I told her I think I won her heart by making her laugh – then I gave a rather off-color reason to support my claim and she laughed heartily at that. Then we got down to her story and boy we were enthralled and mesmerized by it. Oh sure, her stories may have changed a bit here and there every time you spoke to her about them yet the human element, her will to survive, and the tragedy of the events were always and consistently present. Bottom line was this tiny little dynamo had survived to tell a story and we felt honored that she was willing to work with us to tell it.

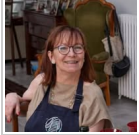
Over the next several months we chatted about her story and the screenplay for “her movie”. She and my dad visited us in NC to work on the outline and she introduced us to her son, Daniel. I made dinner one evening with my special bar-b-que chicken with cheese

and (turkey) bacon. Shocked is not quite the right word for it as we watched that little lady really put it away. She had two large boneless breasts of chicken with a baked potato and broccoli – then, she had a third large chicken breast plus dessert. Amazing!

My father passed away in December of 2022 and, as one of the Trustee's to his estate, I was pulled away from working on the screenplay for the next 8 or 9 months as I had to take care of my fiduciary duties and the other day-to-day work items to make a living. I believe his passing was the reason she finally decided to return to Michigan and be closer to family. September of 2023 was the last time we heard from Bella, and she left a message asking how were doing. As happens a lot, when we called her back, we had to leave a message for her and, unfortunately, we did not get to speak with her again.

It was just two weeks ago that my wife and I had discussed the possibility of travelling up to Michigan in June to see her and to begin work again on the last part of the screenplay. Now, we will need to complete it without her direct oversight, but you can rest assured that we have her story, will properly document it and, with any luck, make a film for all to see - one that Bella would be very proud of.

JAMES A MCCARTHY SR - February 28, 2024 at 12:09 PM



“ Bonjour.

Nous nous connaissons pas , mais nous connaissions BELLA, votre mère qui venait dès qu'elle le pouvait nous rendre à visite à CHATEAUBRIANT - FRANCE, revoir sa famille française, qui l'a tant marquée... ESTHER, le fille de AUGUSTE et ESTHER MOUSSON, JUSTES DE FRANCE, à la demande de BELLA et de ROBERT, son frère, nous a quitté en septembre 2022. Je suis Jacqueline, sa fille. J'ai un frère Yannick et une soeur Sylvie. Nous vous adressons nos plus sincères condoléances. Nous avons une grosse pensée pour Bella qui restera dans nos coeurs..Nous ne l'oublierons jamais.

Je remercie PHILIPPE, le fils de ROBERT de m'avoir prévenue. Je vous joins une photo de la dernière visite de votre mère à Châteaubriant, en 2018, pour les 90 ans de notre mère. Jacqueline EXPERT-LELOUP



Jacqueline Ex Pert-Leloup - February 25, 2024 at 07:45 AM

JE

“ Bonjour.

Nous nous connaissons pas... mais nous connaissions, BELLA, votre mère qui venait dès qu'elle le pouvait nous rendre visite à CHATEAUBRIANT . Revoir sa famille française qui l'a tant marquée" ESTHER, la fille de AUGUSTE ET ESTHER MOUSSON, Justes de France à la demande de Bella et de Robert son frère, est partie en 2022. Je suis sa fille Jacqueline. J'ai un frère Yannick et une soeur Sylvie.. Nous vous adressons nos sincères condoléances. Une grosse pensée pour BELLA qui restera toujours dans nos coeurs..Nous ne l'oublierons jamais..Merci à PHILIPPE fils de ROBERT de nous avoir prévenus.Je vous joins une photo qui date de 2018 à CHATEAUBRIANT avec ESTHER, sa soeur française !!! Jacqueline



jacqueline EXPERT-LELOUP - February 25, 2024 at 07:17 AM

MS

“ I met Bella at Mumford High School and continued our acquaintance whole attending Wayne State University where we were both studying the French language. At the time I did not know the story of her early years. Many years later we came across each other at B'nai David Synagogue. It was then that she related the story of her traumatic early years in France. She told the story in a matter of act manner, not revealing the many feelings that would inevitably stay with her throughout her life. She appeared to be spirited, lively with a full life of marriage, 3 children and a career of teaching French which I believe was at that time in a private school in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Today, I learned so much more about Bella while listening to the beautiful eulogies given by her 3 children at Hebrew Memorial Chapel. I send my deepest condolences to all of you in her family, and hope that the caring of family and friends as well as your memories of her will bring you comfort at this time of your loss.

Margaret Shere

Margaret Shere - February 21, 2024 at 01:34 PM

SL

“ What a beautiful tribute to your mother to honor her life. We wish that we could have been at the service in person with you all, but we are thankful to have been able to join you online. I would like to also mention that Bella made the best hot potato salad ever! May our aunt Bella rest in peace, and we wish you all much love and support. Sherwyn & Sandy

Sandra LABOVITZ - February 21, 2024 at 12:59 PM

TW

“ I am trying to join remotely for the service. Sorry I cannot be there in person to honor Aunt Bell. Sending my love to family xo Tina

Tina Wais - February 21, 2024 at 10:20 AM

CK

Who has a friend for over 75 years? Bella came to Winterhalter Elementary School right "off the boat" and came into our class. We didn't know her story, only that she had an accent. She was thin and blonde and could climb the ropes in gym better than any boy! Our hero! Living within a few houses of each other, we spent many hours together. The adventures we had!

We continued our friendship through junior high and high school; at Wayne we spent many hours working together on French classes. We became French teachers and found yet another connection. She even took over for me when I went on maternity leave at Hillel.

Bella was fun, enthusiastic, and outspoken. She was so excited when Eugene and I visited her in Florida; similarly, I was so excited when she moved back to Michigan. Now I could see her all the time. She could be the sister I never had.

I can't believe she won't be there when we come home.

Cherna Bodzin Kowalsky

Cherna Kowalsky - February 25, 2024 at 10:05 PM