



## DEBORAH HOCHBERG

April 16, 1960 - March 2, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICES: 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at Hebrew Memorial Chapel in Oak Park, Michigan.

\*THIS FUNERAL WILL BE LIVE WEBCAST AND RECORDED FOR LATER VIEWING.

Deborah Hochberg, 64, of Oak Park, MI, died March 2, 2025.

Adored daughter of the late Israel and the late Diane Hochberg

Loving sister of Ruth Rothenberg and David Hochberg.

Devoted aunt of Daniel (Hayley) and Hannah Rothenberg

OFFICIATOR: Rabbi Jennifer Kaluzny

### INTERMENT:

Hebrew Memorial Park

33230 S. Gratiot Ave

Clinton Twp. MI 48035

(no procession)

### SHIVA:

The family will be observing Shiva Wednesday after the funeral and Thursday at the home of:

Ruth Hochberg

3106 Elmhurst

Royal Oak, MI 48073

Religious services will be held at 7:00 p.m.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

If you wish to honor the memory of Deborah Hochberg, you may do so by making a donation in her name to any Israeli Charity.

# Cemetery Details

## Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery

33230 Gratiot  
Clinton Township, MI 48035

# Previous Events

## FUNERAL

MAR 5. 11:30 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of  
**DEBORAH HOCHBERG**



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - March 04, 2025 at 01:35 PM

EB

*Thank you for the opportunity to join online. My prayers are with you all.*

Elaine Belz - March 05, 2025 at 11:53 AM

MT

*I am so sorry about this sudden loss. Deep condolences to Deborah's family and friends. She was a great poet, naturalist, and friend, sweet, engaged, and interesting. Thank you for the opportunity to join online. I had hoped to honor her by being there in person, but that turned out to be impossible. Much love for Deborah, family and friends!*

Mary N Taitt - March 05, 2025 at 01:41 PM

MT

*Thank you for the webcast, I was so pleased to be a part of the services even though I was unable to come.*

Mary N Taitt - March 05, 2025 at 01:57 PM

MT

*It is difficult to take in that Deborah is passed when she was so very alive! More so than most people seem to be!*

Mary N Taitt - March 05, 2025 at 02:18 PM

AW

*I was there. The sound system was faint. I'm glad I can now hear all of the rabbi's words online. I missed so much. I will miss her presence o our writer's group. I will miss the towers of books throughout her apt, the view from her window, her insights into each of our meetings, and so much more. I will miss her.*

Alinda Wasner - March 05, 2025 at 08:44 PM

RR

*Deborah was a truly beautiful soul who brought light to many online yoga classes through Namaste. Her presence in my classes, even virtually, will be deeply missed. My heart goes out to her family and friends—sending love and heartfelt condolences. ❤️*

Rachele Rose - March 11, 2025 at 09:29 PM

TH

*Dear Deborah, you were a beyond amazing friend. I shall always miss you.*

Therese - March 24, 2025 at 07:38 PM

RR

“*Deborah was a truly beautiful soul who brought light to many online yoga classes through Namaste. Her presence in my classes, even virtually, will be deeply missed. My heart goes out to her family and friends—sending love and heartfelt condolences. ❤️*

Rachele Rose - March 11, 2025 at 09:30 PM

JW

“ We were deeply saddened to hear about Deborah’s passing. The news has come as a shock to all of us at Mission Point Press, and she will be profoundly missed. I had the chance of speaking with Deborah just a couple of weeks ago while she was in the hospital, and I was honored to sign her latest book, *River Song*, into production. It is an incredible book and serves as a lasting reflection of her passion and dedication. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

*Jen Wahi,  
President/CEO  
Mission Point Press*

---

**Jen Wahi** - March 11, 2025 at 06:28 PM

VD

“ Deborah Hochberg's brand new book, "*River Song*" is now available at Amazon.



---

**Vivian DeGain** - March 11, 2025 at 12:48 PM

JG

“ I saw Deborah in November at a Poetry reading where we both read. As usual, Deborah was so kind to me - we had a nice talk about her book coming out and about Israel. Gratitude for this video - there are things here that I didn't know about Deborah and I feel closer than ever to her. May her memory always be a blessing. I'm so sorry for this loss for everyone who knew her. And especially, her family.

---

**Joy Gaines-Friedler** - March 06, 2025 at 08:32 AM

VD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Vivian DeGain - March 05, 2025 at 09:05 PM

NS

“ My condolences to Deborah's family--I am so sorry for your loss. I knew Deborah through poetry--we belong to the same workshop group. Through several years of readings and critiques I got to know and respect her as not only a poet and a thinker but as a lively, caring interesting person. I am stunned that she is no longer with us. I will miss her.

Nancy Squires - March 05, 2025 at 11:53 AM

HM

“ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JEpCC2Li70WxgtxKVtIRCyUL2RAVvVDm/view?usp=sharing>

Hebrew Memorial - March 05, 2025 at 10:19 AM

LI

*This is a video sent by Vivian of Deborah reading her poems.*

LINDA - March 05, 2025 at 10:21 AM

VD

*Deborah's voice, reading her own work, is something I need to hear.*

Vivian DeGain - March 06, 2025 at 01:32 PM

EL

“ This is Deborah at the Muskegon art museum . Her poem was a winner at their annual Art Talks Back Ekphrastic Poetry Contest . What is behind her, a metaphor or a meteor? A dark sphere whose interior is reflective and luminescent. Small wonder she was so loved by those privileged to be part of her sphere.

---

**Eric Lerman** - March 05, 2025 at 09:58 AM

EL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Eric Lerman** - March 05, 2025 at 09:57 AM

YO

“ Deborah had a beautiful smile and a wonderful laugh. She had a great sense of humor. We used to laugh until we cried. Now that she's gone, only the tears remain. I love you dearly Pumpkin Brain Head. I will miss you forever.

---

**Yotens** - March 04, 2025 at 01:09 PM

EB

“ My deepest condolences to Deborah's family and friends. I knew her through the Detroit Poetry Salon. Her presence, her voice, and of course her poetry were always a delight and I will miss her so much. I'm shocked at her passing, and really glad I was able to know her.

---

**Elaine Belz** - March 04, 2025 at 12:46 PM

LS

“ I am nearly numb as I write this memory tonight . Debbie and I were friends in high school, have the best memories of Saturday nights watching “The Ghoul,” the 70’s host of horror films , as we hoped he would appear with the pink flashing light bulbs in his ears . We just recently reconnected after decades ,we met and talked for hours . It was the best ! I was so thrilled to reconnect with my friend . We chatted about so much , and I thought about all the times ahead and how we could get to know each other at this time in our lives. .She was the bright , present , funny , wonderful human being I remember . She brought me a copy of her book of poems, How did she know poetry was one of my favorite things .Her poems and writing style were memorable , emotional, thought provoking , and transformative , everything I love about poetry . We made another plan plan to get together again , scheduled for Sunday , February 23. Debbie texted me on Saturday , apologizing profusely telling me she was in the ER and was being admitted , but no one knew what was wrong with her . She made it a point to make sure I knew she was definitely going to reschedule and she was looking forward to it. I told her ,”me too.” I am heart broken. I don’t have the words tonight . I will miss Debbie so much , and all the hanging out and reconnection I thought was ahead of us.

---

**Lisa S** - March 03, 2025 at 07:20 PM

YO

Deborah had a beautiful smile and a wonderful laugh. She had a great sense of humor. We used to laugh until we cried. Now that she’s gone, only the tears remain. I love you dearly Bumble Bee and I will miss you forever.

---

**Yotens** - March 04, 2025 at 09:57 AM

VD

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Vivian DeGain** - March 03, 2025 at 06:52 PM

BE

“ *Deb was a stellar colleague and work mate. She was quiet, kind and through, her patients loved her compassionate ways, she was smart, dedicated and worked so hard to provide excellent care to all. She will be sorrowfully missed by many.... this was her latest poem about our workplace that she kindly shared with us most recently*

*Office Oasis*

*A tributary of the Clinton River  
runs beside the office  
just over the rise  
beyond the edge of the parking lot*

*The water calls to me  
invites me to visit  
this riparian oasis  
where no one else  
ever goes*

*There reside the red-winged blackbirds  
Dragonflies flit like flickering jewels  
Where mountain mint and milkweed bloom  
and Queen Anne's lace nod and sway*

*The cool water lies quietly abed  
while frogs splash and murmur  
while cardinals trill and sing*

*- Beth*

---

**BethMclellan** - March 03, 2025 at 04:09 PM

EL

“ She lived many lives; a film critic for the Metro Times, a student at Wayne State, a poet who, like Emily Dickenson, had a deep understanding of nature as well as people, a waitress at the Union Street restaurant during her student days and for many years a highly esteemed Nurse Clinician at Henry Ford hospital. She was strong in mind and body. A powerful intellect whose intelligence was not artificial. She was part of the Cass Corridor when the arts flourished there.

We met in January 2022 in an online Yiddish course through the Jewish Federation and became regular study partners and friends. One of the last stories we read and translated together was about a Jewish immigrant from, the Ukraine, who tried to sneak across the border from Mexico, but turned back after border guards shot his two compatriots. Together, we managed to find the right words without her. I'm not sure I can.

---

**Eric Lerman** - March 03, 2025 at 03:16 PM

VD

*Lovely. Thank you for sharing.*

---

**Vivian DeGain** - March 03, 2025 at 06:36 PM

EB

*What a beautiful tribute.*

---

**Elaine Belz** - March 04, 2025 at 12:43 PM

DD

“ My heart is broken, I've worked closely with Deb ☐ my fiery Aries since I've started at Henry Ford the last 3/4 years & being in the Department at RO will be different, especially without my girllll.. I'm going to miss you, hearing you say “I'm okay Danielle, thank you!” cause I've been asking you all day are you okay, miss making sure you have your waters just to get through the work day, we just sat & had lunch together .. I can't stomach having to say goodbye because you were like a mom to me ☐☐ I really wish we had more time cause this one is HARD to handle 💔💔

Danielle Davis - March 03, 2025 at 02:35 PM

BA

((Hugs)) ((Hugs)) to you. As I am sad as well. She was a wonderful lady to work with

Barbara - March 04, 2025 at 07:31 PM

BS

“ I have worked with Deborah for 4 years now, we definitely grew close together. She was the type of person I could confide anything in, and she had my back through thick and thin. She cared about her patients, she put detail and effort into every patient she cared for. She went above and beyond. We shared the same sense of humor, you just had to get it. She inspired me and would talk to me for hours about where I want to work when I graduate, giving me inside details and stories about her history working as a nurse. She cared about me, she cared about my future, she cared that I was passing, she cared that I was happy and supported. She cared that I had a lunch to eat. She was always there to listen. She was truly an inspiration, and I will miss her dearly.

Bailey S - March 03, 2025 at 02:29 PM

JW

“ I have known “Hock” since high school and have great memories of her sincerity, wit, and incredible talents. We reconnected a few years ago and just saw her in the fall, in Royal Oak, when she presented her poems along with my brother-in-law, Gary Dembs. She had so many interests and passions and enjoyed all those she knew. I, as everyone, struggle to believe that she is gone from this planet. I know she is in Heaven playing piano and learning everything she can. Holding Ruth and David in my mind, prayers and heart, along with her extended family and friends

Julie Weiss - March 03, 2025 at 01:53 PM

VD

“ Deborah, we have shared trips to the other side of the world, writing circles and criticism, and Jewish studies. Deborah was brilliant, hard working, caring of others, and had a wicked sense of humor. She loved to garden! We shared drinking wine, good books, museum trips, and nonsense. I loved you. The world is better for you Deborah and I am bereft.



Vivian DeGain - March 03, 2025 at 01:45 PM

VD

Deborah also played the piano. Does anyone have a recording?

Vivian DeGain - March 04, 2025 at 03:36 PM

BA

*Deb.... I truly will miss you/her. When working with you I enjoyed our conversations post hrs... This unexpected death had me num. I know whatever was going on you are with our "father which art in heaven". I am going to keep up with my flowers (smile).. those conversation...*

*((Sigh))*

---

**Barbara** - March 04, 2025 at 07:32 PM

AB

*Deborah and I met in 2022 in a Yiddish class through the Jewish Federation. She became an avid Yiddishist, pursuing her studies with care and dedication. Our small group of online learners became dear friends. When I visited Detroit, meeting Deborah in person was like meeting a celebrity. She showed me around the art museum, explaining the history of the art and city like a professor. She was fiercely intelligent and contagiously passionate about everything that interested her. I will remember her when I teach Yiddish and read Yiddish literature with students. Studying literature together revealed her thinking, her understanding of characters, her humor and sensitivity. We would pore over texts, discovering how fiction could prompt us to share threads from our own lives. Her voice and insights were such a consistent part of our learning community. Her talent in literature touched me enormously, and the breadth of her knowledge was inspiring. I can't believe she's gone.*

---

**Avi Blitz** - March 05, 2025 at 08:43 PM

DN

*oh I am in shock. I always tried to avoid my sleep doctors, but not Deborah, she disarmed me as a reluctant patient. I went to schedule with her, and only today I just found out. One of the truly good ones, (Dr and human). I am so sad. Blessing to the family. - Dennis*

---

**dennis nufer** - January 05 at 02:10 PM