



HONORABLE BENJAMIN J. FRIEDMAN

January 19, 1931 - February 4, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICE: 10:30 AM SUNDAY 2/6/2022 at HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A LIVE ZOOM OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE. PLEASE GO TO THE TRIBUTE WALL OF THIS WEBPAGE AND CLICK ON THE PROVIDED LINK.

FOR ALL OF THOSE ATTENDING THE FUNERAL, THE FAMILY HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL ATTENDEES SHOULD BE VACCINATED AND MASKED.

The Honorable Benjamin Jacob Friedman, 91, of Huntington Woods died peacefully at home on Friday, February 4.

He is survived by Annie, his wife of 66 years; children Hon. Michelle Friedman Appel and Jeff Appel, Jerry and Gail Friedman, Susan and Mark Lichterman, and Rabbi Avi and Jodi Friedman; grandchildren Andrew, Lauren, Gabe, Sam, Ariel, Yossi, Katy, Sarah, Piotr, Allie, Jason, Gabi, Eden, Jonah, Jessica, and Ilana; sisters in law Sheila Guyer and Cheryl Guyer and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Born in Detroit on January 19, 1931 to Mary and Max Friedman, Ben, the

youngest of four siblings — Irving, Ann, and Eli — was his parents' "American Dream" as the first member of his family born in the United States, and by all definitions he fulfilled that dream as a loving husband, caring father, doting zayde, valued friend, and respected judge.

After graduating from Central High School, Ben enlisted in the Air Force, serving for nearly four years as a chaplain's assistant in Amarillo, Texas, where he met his lifelong friend Bernie Mintz. While on leave in Detroit, Ben went on a double date and met Annie Guyer — even though she wasn't his date.

Ben and Annie were married on Dec. 25, 1955, the start of a more than six-decade partnership filled with love, music, and Yiddishkeit. He attended Wayne State University, earning his undergraduate and law degrees in just five years. While attending classes, he drove a taxi, sold real estate, taught Hebrew school, and tutored students to support his growing family.

After building a successful law practice, Ben was initially elected in 1969 as Oak Park Municipal Judge. When the court was merged into the 45-B District Court he was appointed as one of the court's first district judges, and he served for 34 years as an admired jurist. He was succeeded on the bench by his daughter Michelle. He was later appointed to the Michigan Gaming Control Board.

An active member on the board of Congregation Beth Achim, Ben shared his love of Judaism and holidays with family and friends, presiding over countless Shabbat and holiday dinners, most often with a glass of Scotch.

Ben never missed a simcha and was happiest surrounded by family and friends discussing his grandchildren's most recent achievements, the latest political news, and the inevitable disappointment from the Lions, Tigers, and

Pistons.

He will be remembered as a pillar of his family and community. Ben was deeply loved and will be missed.

Age 91, of Huntington Woods, died February 4, 2022

Beloved husband of Annie Friedman.

Devoted father of Jerry (Gail) Friedman, Rabbi Avi (Jodi) Friedman, Honorable Michelle (Jeffrey) Appel, and Susan (Mark) Lichterman.

Loving grandfather of Andrew (Lauren) Appel, Gabe Appel, Sam (Ariel) Appel, Sarah (Piotr Gorecki) Friedman, Jason Friedman, Yossi (Katy) Lichterman, Allie Lichterman, Eden Lichterman, Gabi Friedman, Jonah Friedman, Jessica Friedman and Ilana Friedman.

Cherished brother to the late Irving (Helen) Friedman, Late Eli (Ethelene) Friedman, and the late Ann (Nelson) Dembs.

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva privately
but will participate BY ZOOM

Sunday through Thursday evenings @8:00pm

Monday through Friday mornings @7:00am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9082738130?pwd=U1prQjFKb09rck9sbXhtRk1kb2FPZz09>

Meeting ID: 908 273 8130

Passcode: NJ07901

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of

HONORABLE BENJAMIN J. FRIEDMAN

you may do so by making a contribution to:

YAD EZRA

2850 W. 11 Mile,

Berkley, MI 48072

248.548.3663

www.yadezra.org

or

JEWISH HOSPICE AND CHAPLAINCY NETWORK

6555 W. Maple Rd.

West Bloomfield, MI 48322, 248-592-2687

www.jewishhospice.com

or

CONGREGATION OHR SHALOM

67 Kent Place Blvd.

Summit, NJ 07901

SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY

or

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER

28123 Orchard Lake Rd.

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

248-553-2400 www.holocaustcenter.org

Previous Events

FUNERAL

FEB 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of
HONORABLE BENJAMIN J. FRIEDMAN



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - February 04, 2022 at 12:03 PM

JL

He clearly made the most of his opportunities to serve our community.

Jon Levin - February 04, 2022 at 06:43 PM

LL

I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Uncle Benny. Sending my prayers and sincerest condolences to Auntie Ann and to all of my cousins. We are currently in Florida to be with my dad and will be watching on Sunday via Zoom.

Much Love, Lauren(Dembs) and Randy Lesson

Lauren Lesson - February 04, 2022 at 08:22 PM

EH

As a member of Summit JCC / COS, I was fortunate to meet Ben, share in family simchas and enjoy his company, along with Annie. How beautiful that you shared a treasured relationship for many years. May warm and solid memories hold dear for your family always. Elaine Hoffman along with Neil Ullman

Elaine Hoffman - February 06, 2022 at 10:05 AM

AW

So sorry for your loss.

Allen Wolf - February 06, 2022 at 10:25 AM

LS

Sending our love. Cherishing all the amazing memories our families shared. Helen and Ben are now sharing some laughs. Love Linda and Barry Samberg.

Linda Bassel Samberg - February 06, 2022 at 10:34 AM

DF

A truly great man. May his memory be a blessing.

David Fink and Carol Bader Lowen

David Fink - February 06, 2022 at 10:35 AM

AM

This is a beautiful tribute to a truly great man who I was honored to know, learn from, pray with and be a better person, husband and father because of. I'm grateful for the example he and Mrs. Friedman offered and that of his kids and grandkids, all of whom personify his integrity, connection to community and important public service. Love, Andy Meisner and Family

Andy Meisner - February 06, 2022 at 10:55 AM

JW

*In loving memory of a dear new friend.
Janice and Jay Wilson*

janice Wilson - February 06, 2022 at 11:23 AM

RA

Deepest condolences to Mrs. Friedman, Shelly & Jeff and the entire Friedman family. A giant leader in so many areas of life. Mr. Friedman will forever remain a shining example and genuine role model that has truly blessed our Jewish community to be proud to emulate. He will be sorley missed by all who knew him. May the family be comforted at this time with Almighty G-D's ultimate Consolation of Global redemption bringing Global peace to all of humanity.

Rabbi Aharon Amzalak - February 06, 2022 at 12:08 PM

MK

What a beautiful tribute to your father/zayde. This was a very moving service and brought back wonderful memories of our childhood together. Your father was a good friend to my parents and they loved him dearly. Big cyber hug to you all.

Marsha Goldsmith Kamin - February 06, 2022 at 01:51 PM

CB

Deepest condolences to all the Friedman's from Jerry and Gail's Chicago cousins. May good memories of your husband, father and zadie always be for a blessing.

Carol and Joel Blechman - February 06, 2022 at 01:58 PM

PD

Dear Annie, sons, daughters, grandchildren. What a beautiful service and tribute to an outstanding man and mensch! Together you built your beautiful family which blesses you with nachas. May the memories and laughter of a lifetime of shared experiences sustain you in your darkest hours. Ben was richly blessed through his beautiful wife and family, his outstanding career and outreach and his long life. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion. Baruch Dayan HaEmet. I wish each of you long life. חיים ארוכים. ברוך דין האמת

Phyllis (Dede) Levin Domstein - February 06, 2022 at 03:56 PM

MB

I am watching the shiva here in Fla. thinking of all of you with much love. I was the junior brides maid at the weddingremember Aunt Annie?

marcie dembs bell - February 06, 2022 at 08:16 PM

SL

Dear Annie, and entire Friedman family, Ronnie and I send our deepest sympathies on the loss of your husband, father, grandfather. We were so honored to get to know this wonderful man, living across the street from us in HW. We wish for his memory to be a blessing, and send our prayers to all of you.

Sheri & Ronnie Loeb - February 07, 2022 at 05:04 PM

BC

“ Our deepest condolences for the loss of Ben. He truly was a great person. It has been many years since I last saw him but I've always had the fondest memories of him. Barry & Sherry Cohen

Barry S Cohen - March 10, 2022 at 10:03 AM

JL

“ I was so sorry to hear of his passing. He was a very special man and a wonderful husband, father, friend. We loved when he visited Ann Arbor in our college days and it was always so nice to see him over the years. Please accept our sincere condolences on your loss. Janet and Jeff Loeb

janet loeb - February 12, 2022 at 05:37 PM

DH

“ One of the nicest men, and most able judges, that I ever had the pleasure and honor to cover in the news. What a wide impact he had on the community. Benjamin Friedman had the most important quality that a judge can possess: good judgement. Thank you to the entire Friedman family for giving him to us.

Dick Haefner - February 09, 2022 at 03:01 PM

EL

“ Sending all of you my love as you cope with the loss of your dear husband, father, zayde, uncle, Ben. He was a loving force and lead your family as you navigated through life. He danced at my wedding, we shared many a simcha and holiday meal together, and was always ready with a story, a commentary, and a nugget of insight. I always felt when he talked to you, he really was present and focused on the time he spent with you. Those are some of my favorite memories of him. How lucky and fortunante you all were. How sad you are which I think just demonstrates the love and close bonds you all shared. Sending healing prayers as you cope with your loss. May his memory be a blessing.
Love, Elise

Elise Levinson - February 07, 2022 at 06:03 PM

NC

“ Our deepest sympathies to the entire Family. Sending prayers, thoughts and love to you. May your memories of Ben bring you comfort and peace.
Our hearts go out to you.
The Clark Family

Nancy Clark - February 06, 2022 at 04:19 PM

HE

“ Dear Annie, Susan, Mark, Shelly, Avi, Jerry, and all: I have been thinking about Ben throughout the past couple of days, particularly remembering him happily schmoozing at Yossi's wedding, as well as at holiday dinners throughout my years living in Michigan. Ben always set a warm, welcoming tone. He made me feel that I belonged wherever he did. I will smile whenever I think of him. Love,
Heidi

Heidi - February 06, 2022 at 02:41 PM

AL

“ Ben Friedman was a wonderful and sweet man who along with Annie graced our services at COS-SJCC from the moment that Avi became our Rabbi in 2005. I remember speaking with him one late Summer's evening, while I was flipping burgers and hot dogs on our synagogue patio for our "Shabbat Under The Stars", and telling him about my daughter's lives (my older daughter, like Gabby, attended University of Chicago). When I mentioned that she had chosen to go into the field of Social Work at a residential home in Chicago, his reaction was in Yiddish (which I did not fully understand) to the effect of "you can earn a living doing that?". It was the same as my Dad's reaction was when I told him I was going to be a Civil Engineer rather than a teacher - and I suspect, what he may have told Avi when Avi chose to be a Rabbi rather than a lawyer.

But Avi - you absolutely chose correctly. As you know, you have been an inspiration to us - all of our congregation - for all of these years. The challenges of CoVid - keeping the flock together and engaged for the last two years - have been incredible. And while I was honored by your presence and leadership at my Mom's funeral 9 years ago, you and your family were magnificent today. All our love to your mom, and your entire family, and Yasher Koach to you, your brother and sisters and Gabby.

And for the record, even an Askephardic like myself, with limited skills in Yiddish, knows that "dreck" does not mean "subpar". Heck, even Elaina laughed out loud.

*All our love,
Elaina and Andre' Luboff*

Andre' Luboff - February 06, 2022 at 11:37 AM

RM

“ My husband was Judge Friedman's heating and cooling man. Every year he would call to set up his annual appt. Him and I would have a little chat - such a sweet and pleasant man. One day I got a ticket (of which I have never had one) from a state trooper on my way to 12 Oaks - saying I almost ran into him. I was devastated - I felt like a criminal - the first person that came to mind was Judge Friedman. I told him the facts and he said that is ridiculous and that he would accompany me to court. I was so astonished and so grateful to this man for going to do this for me. We went to court - the presiding judge knew Judge Friedman - they started talking and laughing and the judge told me I had the best lawyer in town. The presiding judge also agreed it was ridiculous and threw out the case. Judge Friedman was my hero - and I was so proud to be with him. He was brilliant, kind, and I will never forget what he did for me. May he rest in peace - god has received a genuine angel. My sympathy to the entire Friedman Family - may all your beautiful memories comfort you and I know you have and will continue to follow in his footsteps.

*Heartfelt,
Roslyn and Robert Mendelson*

Roslyn Mendelson - February 06, 2022 at 11:29 AM

ML

“ When I think of Ben, the memory that stands out is that every time I would see him, if my kids were not with me, in addition to asking me how I was, he would ALWAYS ask me how my kids were, and particularly inquire about Josh. He was a true mensch. His memory will always be a blessing.

Marty Levinson

Marty Levinson - February 06, 2022 at 11:27 AM

PZ

“ *A remarkable and inspiring man. May his memory be for a blessing.
Paul and Mimi Zukoff*

Paul Zukoff - February 06, 2022 at 11:22 AM

SW

“ *Cantor Janet Roth and Stuart Weiner send our deepest
condolences and prayers to the Friedman family. He touched so
many people, May his memory be a blessing.*

Stuart Weiner - February 06, 2022 at 10:21 AM

 David
Mintz

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



David Mintz - February 06, 2022 at 09:18 AM

MB

“ *I have had the honor of getting to know Benjamin Jacob Friedman
in 1996 when I was living at Gail and Jerry's house as an exchange
student. Taking walks together, and having intensive and very
interesting talks about life, history and religions are valuable
memories that I still carry with me thankfully. My thoughts and
prayers are with Annie and the entire Friedman family. Markus
Brückner*

Markus Brückner - February 06, 2022 at 05:26 AM

BR

My sincere condolences to Annie and the entire family at this sad time. I'm so sorry for your loss. Love, Barbara Rosen.

Barbara Rosen - February 06, 2022 at 09:26 AM

IC

“ *I was saddened to read about the passing of Judge Friedman. My condolences to the entire Friedman family.*

Irwin S. Cohen - February 05, 2022 at 12:35 AM

SF

“ *My heartfelt condolences to my dear colleagues/friends Jerry, Gail and the entire Friedman family. I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort you. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing your father but may his memory be a blessing to you all. Sonya Farmer - Attendance on Demand*

Sonya Farmer - February 04, 2022 at 05:29 PM



“ *Always a favorite and a pleasure to appear before. To his family, please accept my condolences at this time. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him and being his friend. May all our collective memories of Judge Ben Friedman be for a blessing.*

Jeff Leib - February 04, 2022 at 05:07 PM

MB

“ *I was assigned to Judge Friedman as a young assistant prosecutor. He was brilliant, sarcastic (in the best way) and he made me a better lawyer. He expected preparedness and common sense. When my father was very ill, Judge ended every interaction with me by asking me how my Dad was doing. My sincere condolences to those he loved.*

Mary Ellen Brennan - February 04, 2022 at 04:56 PM

KC

“ I send my condolences to the family. When I first started as an assistant prosecutor, I was assigned to Judge Friedman. He taught me so much as a young attorney. I will always be grateful for his legal mind, his kindness and his sense of humor. He was a wonderful man.

Kelly Chard - February 04, 2022 at 04:12 PM

CM

“ We send our condolences to the entire Friedman family on the loss of Judge Benjamin Friedman. He was an exemplary jurist and community leader, but more importantly, an exemplary family man. You were blessed to have him in your lives. He was blessed to have all of you in his life. Zekher Tzadik Livrakha. With deepest sympathy, Carlo J. Martina and Marie A. Pulte

Carlo J. Martina - February 04, 2022 at 02:54 PM

NG

“ Our heartfelt condolences at this sad time. We will miss seeing Ben on our infrequent visits to Michigan. Our thoughts are with you Nancy and Irving Gutterman.

Nancy Gutterman - February 04, 2022 at 01:10 PM

HY

After Havdalah when my wife and I sang the words from the Scroll of Esther " LAYAHUDIM HAYATA ORAH VISIMCHA, I read of Ben z"l death and remembered how much " light and joy " Ben and Annie brought to fellow congregants and to me when they hosted adult education programs at their home or added to the religious services in the congregation .He was a caring person who has made our world better by the MITZVOT he performed YEHI ZICHROH .BARUCH Herbert Yoskowitz

Herbert Yoskowitz - February 05, 2022 at 09:03 PM

SW

our condolences

Susan Wallach - February 06, 2022 at 10:35 AM

DH

what a beautiful tribute a true celebration of a wonderful life lived and a Rabbi and his family who show such love and admiration Yehe zichrono livracha Dena and Bill Horn

dena Horn - February 06, 2022 at 11:29 AM

MF

*Michael and I were so sorry to hear of Ben's passing. We watched the funeral Sunday morning and both said this was such a beautiful tribute. There were so many wonderful memories of Ben shared that truly described a life well lived. He was a teacher to so many. May his memory be for a blessing.
Marcy Feldman*

Marcy Feldman - February 08, 2022 at 08:44 AM

RP

Arvin and I are so sorry for your loss. Our sincerest condolences to the entire family.

Ruthanne Pearlman - February 12, 2022 at 03:08 PM