



RUTH WEBBER

June 28, 1935 - January 1, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025, 12:00 PM, AT HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 26640 GREENFIELD ROAD, OAK PARK, MI 48237

THE CHAPEL SERVICE WILL BE WEBCAST AND AVAILABLE TO WATCH AT THE START OF THE SERVICE

Mrs. Ruth Webber, a Holocaust survivor, died January 1, 2025, at the age of 89. She was the beloved wife of the late Mark Webber.

Devoted mother of Shelly Webber, Elaine (Barry Chesterman) Webber, and Susan Webber. Loving grandmother of Benjamin (Ari), Nathan (Priya Shankar), Miriam and Ari Chesterman, and Leah Webber. Loving great-grandmother to Scarlett and Lily Chesterman. Dear sister to Helen (the late Irving) Mueller, sister-in-law to the late Leo (Zeta) Weber, the late Bronia (the late Eliyahu) Melman, the late Ann (the late Martin) Leikach, and Rae (the late Joe) Nachbar. Mrs. Webber was the treasured daughter of the late Samuel and Molly Muschkies.

The family wishes to thank her devoted caregivers Pam Ashford and Cheryl Davis. The family also thanks the dedicated staff at Coville Assisted Living and Meer Apartments of Jewish Senior Life and the supportive services of Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy and Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care.

INTERMENT:

Machpelah Cemetery

21701 Woodward Ave

Ferndale MI 48220

(no procession - maps will be available)

OFFICIATING:

Barry Chesterman

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva following the interment on Friday, then Sunday through Thursday morning, at the home of:

Elaine Webber & Barry Chesterman

13132 Ludlow Ave.

Huntington Woods MI 48070

Religious services will be held Sunday through Wednesday at 7:00 pm.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN MEMORY OF RUTH WEBBER MAY BE MADE TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

The Zekelman Holocaust Center

<https://29862.blackbaudhosting.com/29862/DONATIONS>

Greater Detroit Chapter of Hadassah

<https://www.hadassah.org/region/greater-detroit>

Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care

<https://www.mph.care/>

Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network

<https://jhcn.org/>

Cemetery Details

Machpelah Cemetery

21701 Woodward Avenue
Ferndale, MI 48220

Previous Events

FUNERAL

JAN 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Hebrew Memorial Chapel
26640 Greenfield Rd.
Oak Park, MI 48237

Shiva

JAN 3 to 9 (ET)

Elaine Webber & Barry Chesterman
13132 Ludlow Ave.
Huntington Woods, MI 48070

Religious services will be held Sunday through Wednesday at at 7:00 pm.

Tribute Wall



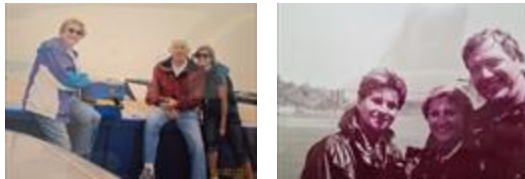
“ *Hebrew Memorial Chapel created a Webcast in memory of RUTH WEBBER*



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - January 02, 2025 at 02:22 PM

RF

“ I've been looking all weekend for the photo I remembered having of Mark , Ruth, and I traveling Michigan 15y ago.
In those years 20y old me couldn't understand the meaning and importance of these two wonderful, strong and loving 80y old people having the will and making the effort to host me like they were in their 20's themselves.
Growing up in Israel, with my grandparents and my mom's stories about Ruth, who survived the holocaust and conquered life, making everyday count, being a loving, beautiful person both in and out stays with me.
Wishing now that I'm in another phase in my life, more mature, that I would have spent some more time with her, having fun, hearing stories, and travel.
Ruth has been a living legend in our family, and the legend will not go away by her being gone.
Sending to her amazing family שלא תדעו עוד צער and a real Baruch Dayan Haaemet. Hugs from all of us in Israel❤️
In the photos- my grandparents traveling with Ruth in the 80's
And me doing the same 30y later



Reut Feldman - January 07, 2025 at 04:30 AM

SW

Reut, they loved to travel, especially by car, and especially loved going to northern Michigan (up north!) and sharing it with others. We are so glad to know you treasure that time with them, as did your grandparents.

Susan Webber - January 07, 2025 at 03:57 PM

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*In the photos- my grandparents traveling with Ruth in the 80's
And me doing the same 30y later



Reut Feldman - January 07, 2025 at 04:25 AM

JZ

“ Really touching funeral service and I loved hearing all the stories. My last memory of Aunt Ruth was when the Webber clan came to Sherry's 60th birthday party murder mystery. For some reason I just remember one of the characters in the act that kept chatting up Ruth and she really integrated herself into the whole event to say the least. She had such a lovely spirit and even though we didn't see each other often, she would light up when we did, always engaged in conversation and always making sure the other person felt heard and loved.

Josh Zweig - January 05, 2025 at 01:28 PM

SW

Josh - thank you so much for your loving words about our mother - she loved visiting with all of you and she always remembered your love of putting things inside the VCR - much to your parent's frustration. Thank you for providing your memory of her - so sorry I had to miss the party!

Susan Webber - January 06, 2025 at 12:32 PM

EK

“ I have vivid memories of my Great Aunt Ruth coming to visit our family in Toronto. Visits from Ruth and Mark were always exciting, and not only because they would bring us chocolate licorice which could not be purchased in Canada. I still can get my napkins in a perfect fan because of the trick Aunt Ruth taught me, and I was also going to mention the doilies but everyone else already beat me to the punch. In fact, I never saw a doily in my life unless Aunt Ruth was in town and making the most gorgeous trays of cookies and sweets. During her last visit to Toronto about 5 years ago, even though she was in the early stages of dementia, she was so engaged in conversation with my daughter, Maia. She always had a way of making you feel so seen during conversations, she had a true gift.

One more thing I wanted to share. My daughter Maia loves to write. Last year, Maia did a project on how children and their relationship to “play” and games during the Holocaust. She became fascinated with Ruth’s story, she researched Ruth online, reading all about her and listening to her interviews. She’s currently writing a fictional story based on Ruth’s life (although she tells me it’s a work in progress).

Thank you for sharing such beautiful stories today. May her memory be a blessing.

Elissa Katzman - January 04, 2025 at 12:30 AM

SW

Elissa - your final story about your daughter's project really brought tears to my eyes. Mom had such a hard time giving any kind of speech about her experiences, but she readily answered questions which we is now part of her legacy. We look forward to seeing you soon, with chocolate licorice in hand!

Susan Webber - January 06, 2025 at 12:37 PM



“ I met Sue in 1980 through BBG. Sue and I have remained lifelong friends. As I watched the service, I had so many beautiful images appear of memorable times sitting at Ruth and Mark's table in West Bloomfield. I was always welcomed into their home as family - with smiles, hugs, love and, of course, wonderful food. We'd sit at the table, have some delicious treat, a cup of hot tea, and enjoy catching up.

When Sue and I both lived locally, Ruth and Mark invited me into their home so frequently, I had the pleasure of getting to know the entire family. Both Ruth and Mark's memories are a blessing to me.

Sue, Shelly, Elaine, Barry, Benjamin, and Nathan, you all wove a beautiful, vivid, and meaningful tribute. Her legacy lives on through all of you, the rest of her family, me, and everyone else who was touched by her shining light.

Nancy Michlin - January 03, 2025 at 01:38 PM

SW

Nancy,
You are and will always be a part of our extended family forever. I know my mother felt that way about you - so you are in! Thank you for sharing your memories - love you!

Susan Webber - January 06, 2025 at 12:54 PM

TS

“ I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of your mother, Sue. I remember the stories of resilience and unwavering spirit of your mother and grandmother. She truly lived an extraordinary life, overcoming so much and inspiring everyone around her. Her strength and courage will always be remembered. I'm sending you my heartfelt condolences during this difficult time.

The memorial video was a beautiful tribute. Sharing those memories must have been a comforting experience. It's wonderful that you were able to gather and remember her life. Holding onto those stories will keep her spirit alive.

You are all an extension of her love and life valiently lived . The world is a better place because she was in it. May her memory be a blessing.

Tammy Shelton - January 03, 2025 at 01:26 PM

SW

Tammy,
Thank you so much for your heartfelt comments about our mother and I am glad you found it a beautiful tribute - which was our intention. May future generations continue to learn from her stories.

Susan Webber - January 06, 2025 at 01:06 PM

GT

“ I met Ruth at Coville where I volunteer. I often stopped by her room to say hello. I loved listening to her sing along at our concerts. She knew the lyrics to many songs. I am grateful to have known this remarkable woman who taught us so much.

Gaye Tischler - January 03, 2025 at 01:04 PM

RM

“ Sue and I met in November 2002, Since that time, we have been friends and because of this I have had several wonderful opportunities to meet and spend time with Ruth. This has been at Sue's beautiful home in Arlington, and also on several occasions when we went out for dinner, including with my own Mom at the Chart House.

One especially fond memory was for my 35th-year college reunion at Georgetown. As was often the case, Sue and Ruth had been engaged in interesting activities in advance of us meeting. I recall a massage for Ruth and a visit to Dumbarton Oaks or other garden in Georgetown. They picked us up at 37th and O St. and we proceeded to go a few stores on Wisconsin Ave. and then to the Waterfront area in Georgetown where we all shared a delicious ice cream. Remarkable to me was that she appeared to have energy and zest for these activities and did not complain at all about any logistical issues, or the heat that hot summer day.

I always remember thinking it was super sweet and loving to be around Sue and Ruth because of their obvious love for each other. I was always touched by them holding hands which they did often and which I will always remember.

And, I am grateful to Ruth for her sunny disposition and generous spirit even though we all know she experienced many difficult to bear things in her life.

Reed MacMillan - January 03, 2025 at 11:46 AM

SW

Reed, thank you for sharing those memories of our adventures together. Mom loved meeting my friends and was happy to join in on adventures.

Susan Webber - January 03, 2025 at 09:37 PM

“Ruth changed her destiny and turned it into a legacy.

Ruth’s legacy goes far beyond her survival. She was a builder—of family, community, of bridges connecting generations. She taught us that no matter how broken the world may seem, it is our responsibility to rebuild it, piece by piece, with kindness and compassion.

About 10 year ago, around June 2014, with Sue’s help, Ruth connected with the Muszkies from Brazil; it immediately turned into a very strong bond. This did not happen by chance, it was not only because we are part of the same family, neither because she was a survivor seeking the lost family puzzle. It was Ruth’s empathy, sweetness, softness and unique capacity of to spread love with her magic smile. There are no words to express our feeling of connectedness.

Our Lea was born 2 months later in Pittsburgh, and she didn’t hesitate to come visit with Mark, Shelly, and Leah. It was a unique moment when Ruth met Sonia, her first cousin.

After that, there were many other occasions where we met again, including the Thanksgivings in Detroit, the trip to Poland and the family trip to Brazil We feel so thankful for “becoming again” part of this family. We felt close and intimate as if we had lived together our whole lives, despite being far apart. But it was the relationship between her and Lea that surprised us. The feeling between them became something strong, beautiful that words are not enough to describe. After all, there are 2 generations difference in time and despite that, the bonds are even stronger. This is incredible and magical, something that only a person with such special gifts could build.

We had very emotional moments together in Poland, on the launch of Ruth’s father book. On those 6 days, we had such an intense experience. Visiting with her the orphanage where she stayed after

the war, and hearing her memories is something we will never forget.

Another cherished time we hold close in our hearts was when Ruth and her family came to Brazil. That time together was filled with joy, warmth, and connection. It remains etched in our hearts. We were deeply touched by the love and generosity she brought with her, and by the sense of unity and belonging that she nurtured among us. We met with many Ostrowiec families descendants where everyone was delighted listening to her.

Ruth had an extraordinary ability to bring people together. Her warmth, her stories, and her faith in humanity reminded us of the importance of unity. She taught us that even in the face of profound loss, there is hope, there is love, and there is possibility to create something beauty from the ashes. Her big magical smile illuminates paths.

Her kindness was not in form of grand speeches but simple acts—listening, caring, and always remembering the value of each individual.

It is upon us to now carry her legacy. Let us honor her memory by embracing kindness, connectedness, family values and ensuring that her example lives in our actions and our hearts. We are extremely thankful for all kindness, teaching and love she gave us.

May her memory be a blessing.

From the Muszkies, Zagarodne and Spilberg families

Marcia Spilberg - January 03, 2025 at 08:25 AM

SW

What a beautiful tribute Marcia - we love you all!

Susan Webber - January 03, 2025 at 10:06 AM

MS

Not enough for her, she will be deeply missed

Marcia Spielberg - January 03, 2025 at 11:19 AM

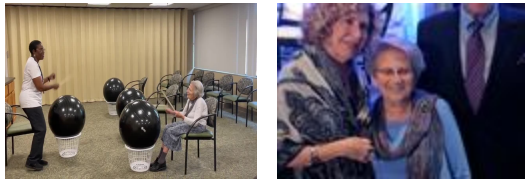
KL

“ *Ruth was a wonderful, bright and warm lady. My daughter was, for a while, her granddaughter's Hebrew teacher in Ann Arbor and we loved to talk about the connection. My sincere condolences to all the family. She will be missed.*

Karen Lovinger - January 03, 2025 at 06:42 AM

SW

“ *2 files added to the album Ruth Webber Pictures and Videos*



susan Webber - January 02, 2025 at 09:39 PM

GS

“ *10 files added to the tribute wall*



Gabriela Spielberg - January 02, 2025 at 12:31 PM

MS

Always her huge smile!

Marcia Spilberg - January 02, 2025 at 01:46 PM

GS

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Gabriela Spilberg - January 02, 2025 at 12:29 PM

LM

“ As Ruth’s chair yoga instructor, I was blessed to guide her through moments of both peace and remembrance. Her megawatt smile lit up every class, and her presence reminded me of the unbreakable spirit of our Jewish heritage. When anxiety gripped her during class, breathing together became our sacred practice - watching serenity return to her face was a gift I’ll forever cherish 💖 May her memory be a blessing 🕯️ Aleha Hashalom



Lindsay Madison - January 02, 2025 at 10:27 AM

SW

Exercising with Elaine at Coville Assisted Living - always a smile - 2024

Susan Webber - January 02, 2025 at 03:45 PM

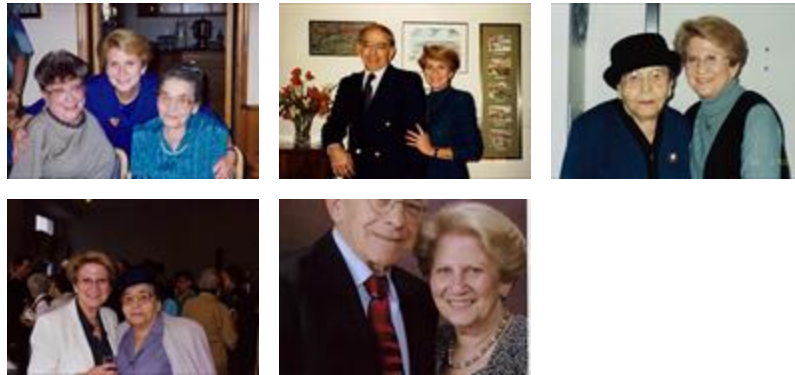
MT

“ From here in Israel I am sending my condolences. Strangely I was thinking of Mark and Ruth last week even though I haven't seen them in, perhaps, two decades. I fondly recall them sitting together near the front of the rows of seats in shul on Walnut Lake Road and I learned of their krakow background and the family and friends murdered as they fled south to the Czech border. On mark's instructions I visited to the memorial in the miodowa cemetery and I often think of them when in krakow. I'm sorry I cannot participate in the funeral but hope you feel my presence. אשת חיל היא ימצא

michael traison - January 02, 2025 at 08:22 AM

SW

“ 23 files added to the tribute wall



Susan Webber - January 02, 2025 at 12:18 AM

SW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan Webber - January 01, 2025 at 11:28 PM

SW

Smiling - as always. December 2024

Susan Webber - January 02, 2025 at 10:47 AM

MS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcia Spilberg - January 01, 2025 at 06:00 PM

SW

“ 16 files added to the album Ruth Webber Pictures and Videos



Susan Webber - January 01, 2025 at 04:19 PM

SW

“ 1 file added to the album Ruth Webber Pictures and Videos



Susan Webber - January 01, 2025 at 02:06 PM

RS

Ruth was a beautiful and kind lady. I will always treasure our times together.

Rita Sitron - January 01, 2025 at 03:32 PM

DS

I remember meeting Ruth on several occasions at Elaine and Barry's home. She always greeted you with a warm smile and seemed to make an instant connection to anyone she encountered. I believe she has left lasting memories for her family and friends.

Doris Schey

Doris Schey - January 01, 2025 at 04:21 PM

SW

Wearing her signature blue...

Susan Webber - January 02, 2025 at 07:20 PM

MS

“ *This is the first moment I met Ruth and since then we had an immediate connection due to her empathy and her capacity of welcome and embrace people. An extraordinary woman, who changed her destiny to a legacy. I feel so blessed to be part of her story.*

Marcia Spilberg - January 01, 2025 at 01:51 PM

SW

It was a wonderful moment for us all Marcia - to reconnect with our Brazilian family.

Susan Webber - January 01, 2025 at 04:20 PM

MS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marcia Spilberg - January 01, 2025 at 01:45 PM