



## DR. STEVEN KOWALSKY

April 29, 1953 - May 3, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE: 1:30 PM, Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The chapel service will be webcast.

Steven Kowalsky — principled family man, insatiable polymath, and brilliant physician — passed away on May 3, 2026, at the age of 73. His interests were vast and his expertise in each genuine — spanning cars, space, mechanical antiques, fixing things, world travel, gastronomy, global business, and his local community. Steven’s intellect and quick wit made every conversation an occasion filled with laughter and learning for those lucky enough to share his company.

Though on paper he led the traditional path of a nice Jewish boy from Detroit - growing up in Oak Park, proudly matriculating through the University of Michigan from undergrad to his MD and residency, marrying the effervescent Ilene Burk and raising his family in West Bloomfield - he never kowtowed to the expectations of society when they compromised his values. His children, Marisa Kowalsky (Dr. Dan Myers) and Daniel Kowalsky (Dr. Allison Ho Kowalsky), and grandchildren (Everett Myers, Sloane Myers, Robin Kowalsky) will remember him as an endlessly generous man who always sought joy and fun, especially through magical family trips. Brothers Howard (Naomi), Mark (Bonnie), and Jeffery (Julie) will hold close the memories of their days together with their beloved parents, Edith and Larry Kowalsky, on

Southerland, vacations to Tawas filled with fishing and salami sandwiches, and gathering around the table for holiday celebrations.

Steven will be deeply missed by all, but his fiercely authentic approach to life will be carried on for generations.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Aaron Bergman

Hazzan Daniel Gross

INTERMENT: Adat Shalom Memorial Park

28500 Six Mile Road

Livonia, MI 48125

SHIVA:

Following the interment the family will have a luncheon at 4:00 details to be announced

The family will observe Shiva at the residence from Thursday to Monday.

4501 Strandwyck

West Bloomfield Twp. MI 48322

On Thursday, Sunday, and Monday, condolence visits are welcome at 6:00 PM, and religious services are at 7:00 PM.

Friday condolence visits 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

CONTRIBUTIONS:

To honor the memory of Dr. Steven Kowalsky, you may make a donation in his name to the following organization:

U Of MI "Basket Fund"

<https://giving.umich.edu/basket/fund/311218/tributee/Dr.%20Steven%20Kowalsky/type/memory?TributeUrlId=eQ3dz>

# Cemetery Details

## Adat Shalom Memorial Park Cemetery

28500 W. 6 Mile Road  
Livonia, MI

# Previous Events

## FUNERAL

MAY 6. 1:30 PM (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 DR. STEVEN KOWALSKY



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**Hebrew Memorial Chapel** - May 05 at 02:01 PM

RM

*I knew Steven for a short time, but immediately saw his kindness and warmth. I enjoyed his down to earth outlook- made you feel comfortable. I will miss him.*

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**Ruth Moss-Katsnelson** - May 06 at 01:26 PM

PK

“ *Our hearts were broken and deeply saddened to hear of Steve’s decline and recent passing. Meeting Steve at UM and staying in touch through our early career challenges was a gift I’ll always cherish. His positive and gentleman approach to every problem was emblematic to his approach to life and was a gift to all that knew him. Our deepest sympathies are with Ilene, Marisa, Daniel and Steven and Ilene’s grandchildren. May God’s blessings be with them all now and forever.*

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**Peter Knapp** - May 13 at 09:59 AM

GG

“ I grew up on Sutherland down the street from the Kowalskys. The neighborhood was full of young families with children and in those days children were all outside and mostly unscheduled, we made our own fun. Families were more connected with each other back then and the Kowalsky home was always welcoming. Steven was the oldest of the Kowalsky boys and not my age peer. I always remember him being nice to younger kids like me. I was friendly with Howie and Markie. Howie shared an interest in sports and it was with him that I shared in playing all iterations of baseball that one could possibly imagine. I recall he was the only lefty in the neighborhood. Steven was a tinkerer even as a child and I remember that he somehow would rig the doorbell system to create a bit of a sound and light show with scary sounds when you rung the Kowalsky doorbell on Halloween. It was astounding that he could do that at the time. In elementary school, Steven and Howie Gutman had the idea that they could improve on the Planters Peanut bar, thus was born the popular “Nutty Sausage Head” that they would sell to fellow students at Roosevelt school on the grounds before the morning bell! I last saw Steven when I was in medical school and Steven was an intern. We encountered each other on the wards and he was always kind when we crossed paths, reminiscing about our Oak Park roots.

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**Gary Goodman** - May 08 at 09:12 AM

BS

“ To Howard Kowalsky and Family, My deepest sympathy on the loss your older brother and friend.

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**Brandy Sinco** - May 07 at 02:10 PM

MS

“ I'm so very very saddened to learn of Steve's passing "BDH" having communicated with him via email only 3 weeks ago. Until his retirement Steve was my urologist since he began his practice in Allen Park. For years Linda and I could identify him during Yom Tov at Adat Shalom, towering over others while wearing his blue and white kippa. Our deepest condolences to Ilene, the children and grandchildren. May his memory be for a blessing, May the family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

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**Michael & Linda Schulman** - May 05 at 08:10 PM

AR

“ Steven was always the nicest and kindest man. May his memory be a blessing. He is gone too soon.

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**Andrea Rogoff** - May 05 at 05:07 PM

RC

“ He was a great guy. I loved meeting with him and our conversations about so many different topics, especially investing and cars, every month for almost 35 years  
*Rick Cohen*

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**Rick Cohen** - May 05 at 06:45 AM

PS

“ This is a very sad loss to Ilene and their family. Went to Oak Park High School with Steven and Ilene. May his blessed memories live on in all your hearts. Prayers and Thoughts.  
*Phyllis Novograd Samsky*

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**phyllis Samsky** - May 04 at 09:27 PM

LU

“ I’m heartbroken to share that a dear friend and colleague passed away last night.

*We worked together for many years, but our connection went far beyond the operating room. He was not only an incredible Urologist, but also someone who brought humor, warmth, and personality into every day. No matter how busy things got, he always had a way of making me laugh.*

*We bonded over being Trekkies, our shared love of antiques and vintage finds, and of course—his phonograph. I used to tease him constantly about selling it to me, and he would always say, “Maybe someday.” I’ll always smile thinking about that.*

*Over the years, I gave him vintage urology-related gifts, and he made a point to tell me how proudly he displayed them. That meant more to me than he probably realized.*

*I don’t think he ever called me by my actual name—he always called me “Beavis,” and it stuck because we laughed about it so much. And in the OR, after finishing a case, he’d say, “Take your time—but hurry up.” That was him—kind, funny, and just the right amount of mischievous.*

*He loved his family deeply and spoke of them often. My heart goes out to them.*

*I will miss him more than words can say—his humor, his friendship, and the way he made even the longest days feel lighter.*

*Rest peacefully, my friend.*

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**Lori Umstead** - May 04 at 05:25 PM

AA

“ I met Steven in Kindergarten, but we didn't become close lifelong friends until 2nd grade.  
He was an important friend as well as mentor of mine all along....He most certainly will be missed by all.

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**Alan Adler** - May 04 at 05:21 PM

MY

“ I was so sorry to learn of Steven's passing. My deepest condolences to Ilene and his entire family. I have many fond memories of Steven, from happy days in Ann Arbor to trips to Europe and Jamaica. I will miss him.

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**mark yura** - May 04 at 05:03 PM

PG

“ It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to my life long friend. We shared so much over all the years. You were always the glue that bound our group of friends together. You will truly be missed.

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**Peter Gregory** - May 04 at 02:48 PM

DR

“ I really don't know where to begin. I worked for Dr Kowalsky from 1991 until we both retired in April of 2018. First my sincere condolences to Ilene , Daniel and Maresa their spouses and children . Also to his brothers that I know he cared for deeply . I know my heart is broken so I can only imagine your grief. He was the greatest boss. And a really great friend to all of us whom worked with him. The biggest thing that stuck with me all these years was the fact he always thanked us at the end of the day. I worked several jobs over the years and never remember any other employer doing that. I truly will miss our update texts on what was the word about patient or former coworkers . I will also miss the holiday gifs he would send it was my honor to have worked with him .

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**Debbie Rankin** - May 04 at 02:36 PM

RM

*Jeff, I'm so very sorry for loss. May the memories be for blessings.*

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**Rabbi Jason Miller** - May 04 at 05:07 PM

HR

*My heartfelt condolences go out to Steven and his family. In the last few years I got to know him, as we celebrated together, a couple of weddings, my son Zak Rosen and Shira Heisler and Tammi Heisler and Jared as Steve and Ilene were close friends of Sydney and Sarah Heisler. I'll have memories of great conversations during some very happy and festive times. I'm so sorry for my friends, Howard and Mark. May Steve Rest in Peace!*

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**Howard Rosen** - May 05 at 11:37 AM