



WOLF GRUCA

February 6, 1920 - February 18, 2021

FAMILY GRAVESIDE SERVICE: 2:00 PM FRIDAY 2/19/2021 AT CLOVER HILL PARK CEMETERY.

A Zoom link will be provided for the service.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING BY CLICKING ON LINK BELOW:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6473613553>

Age 101, died February 18, 2021.

During his life, Wolf Gruca proudly carried many titles: son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. The title he carried the longest, however, was that of survivor. Wolf Gruca was the beloved father of Joseph (Sandra) Gruca, Mary (James) Starr and Susane Yesnick. He was the honored grandfather of Jeffrey Gruca, Terri Gruca, Rabbi Aaron (Rebecca) Starr and David (Dr. Brittany Lakin-Starr) Starr. Wolf Gruca was the cherished Zayde (great-grandfather) to Ryan Gruca, Jacob Gruca, Caleb Starr, Ayal Starr, and Eliana Starr.

He was predeceased during the Holocaust by his parents, Joseph and Meryl, as well as five siblings and their respective families. Wolf was also predeceased by daughter-in-law Shelley Gruca (z'l) and son-in-law, Aaron Yesnick (z'l). Wolf Gruca was a respected member of Congregation Shaarey family, where he found lasting friendships and community.

When Germany entered Poland in 1939, Wolf Gruca was among the many Jews forced into the ghetto. A tool maker by training, he then served for several years as forced labor in the HASAG plant not far from his home in Czestochowa. Before the War came to an end, he labored as well at Buchenwald, including its sub-camp Mittelbau-Dora, and then Osterode am Harz in Germany.

When the Holocaust ended, Wolf spent time at the displaced persons camp at Bergen-Belsen and then at Frankfurt-Mein, where he met and married Regina (nee Waldman), and where the couple welcomed their first child, Joe.

Wolf, Regina and Joe immigrated to New York and then came to Detroit. In Detroit, the family grew, adding Mary (Margie) and Susane. Wolf eventually took a position in tool and die with Chrysler, where he worked for thirty years until his retirement. Especially in the first part of his retirement and before her death in 2000, Wolf took gentle care night and day of his wife Regina, whose physical limitations that resulted from the Holocaust turned into full disabilities. Wolf was a regular part of the minyan at Beth Achim and then at Congregation Shaarey Zedek, where he joyfully made breakfast every Sunday for the minyan attendees. Then, after the passing of his wife, Wolf found much joy in spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; in shepping nachas over their accomplishments; in receiving phone calls from those closest to him; in dancing with friends; and especially in sitting together with four generations of his family each Shabbat morning at Congregation Shaarey Zedek.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi Yonatan Dahlen

Hazzan David Propis

INTERMENT:

Clover Hill Park Cemetery

SHIVA:

Due to the pandemic, there will be no formal Shiva.

The family will be attending minyan daily through Congregation Shaarey Zedek, beginning at 6:00 pm Friday.

<https://zoom.us/j/8167572328>

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of
WOLF GRUCA

you may do so by making a contribution to:

CONGREGATION SHAAREY ZEDEK

Rabbi Aaron Starr Discretionary Fund

27375 Bell Road

Southfield, MI 48034

248-357-5544

www.shaareyedek.org

or

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER

28123 Orchard Lake Road

Farmington Hills, MI 48334

248-553-2400

www.holocaustcenter.org

Cemetery Details

Clover Hill Park Cemetery

2425 East 14 Mile Road
Birmingham, MI 48009

Previous Events

Service

FEB **19**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Clover Hill Park Cemetery
2425 East 14 Mile Road
Birmingham, MI 48009

Tribute Wall

PO

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Gruca were friends of my parents, also Holocaust survivors. Aron and Helen Lankin. May his memory be for a blessing.*

Phyllis Ostroff - March 01, 2021 at 01:40 PM

NM

“ *Sending my sincere condolences for your loss. He was a lovely man who lived a long life. Love,*

Norine and Ray Marsh and Family

Norine Marsh - March 01, 2021 at 11:08 AM

LB

“ *Dear Gruca Family,*

Sincere condolences to you and your family. Cherish the memories as you remember times together.

*Sent with love,
Shelli and Larry*

Larry Bello - February 21, 2021 at 03:43 PM

DG

“ *I very much enjoyed my conversations with Wolf. He was always willing to meet with me just to chat about life. I value those chats and will remember him so fondly! Rest in peace*

Doron Gringorten - February 20, 2021 at 11:13 PM

HM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Hebrew Memorial - February 19, 2021 at 03:56 PM

JH

I would like to express my condolences to the family of Wolf Gruca on his passing. I remember him as a kind,gentle man. My thoughts are with you all

Josef Hornung

Josef Hornung - February 19, 2021 at 08:27 PM

MG

“ *It was an honor to know Wolf Gruca. His mere presence taught us so much!*

He was surrounded by so much love and koved from his family.

What a beautiful thing!

Sending heartfelt condolences,

The Goldbergs and The Baruchs

Miriam Goldberg - February 19, 2021 at 03:47 PM

SC

“ *Dear Joe and Sandy, I was privileged to hear Joe relate his experiences during WW II last year. What an amazing survivor and thriver. May sweet memories of him console you as you celebrate his life.*

Suzy Curtis

Suzanne H Curtis - February 19, 2021 at 12:59 PM

RG

“ Dear Rabbi Starr and family, I was shocked and saddened to learn of Wolf’s death yesterday. I was particularly shocked as I had listened to your inspiring sermon last week which was a tribute to your grandpa’s 101st birthday. I had intended to write to you then and now I’m just sad he could not have lived longer. He was so very proud of you. I can still remember him speaking at Shir Tikvah so many years ago about never imagining his grandson being a rabbi. We followed you to CSZ and again were privileged to see Wolf healthy and in good spirits. Wolf went through so much tragedy, but found the blessing of a devoted family and long life. You and your family are very much in our thoughts. May his memory be for a blessing.

Sincerely,
Ruth Grimaldi
Marvin Petuch

Ruth Grimaldi - February 19, 2021 at 10:28 AM

TB

“ I am truly so sorry to hear about your father. Growing up, our families were very close. We shared many happy times together.

So glad that my brothers and I were able to see him, Joe, and Margie last year.

My love and condolences to Susie, Joe, Margie, and your families.

Toby Hornung Berger

Toby Berger - February 19, 2021 at 08:44 AM

SY

Thank you, Toby. Please say Hello to Harley for me. Sue

Sue Yesnick - February 19, 2021 at 12:05 PM

WA

“ *Wolf was an amazing, honorable man who loved his family fiercely. Truly, his happiest moment was standing, with all of his family, at Caleb's Bar Mitzvah. The smile on his face was contagious.*

From listening to him tell his life story, to him teaching our children about what it means to be blessed and righteous, we are very fortunate to have known him.

Our thoughts are with the entire Gruca, Starr and Yesnick families. We offer our sincere condolences. May his memory always bring smiles to your faces and his name always be for a blessing. Baruch Dayan HaEmet.

Much love, Wendy, Philip, Sam, Adam and Shoshana Arnold

Wendy Arnold - February 18, 2021 at 02:00 PM

AG

“ *Sue sorry to hear of your fathers death. May his memory be for a blessing.*

Andrea Gordon - February 18, 2021 at 10:21 AM

SY

Thank you, Andrea. Sue

Sue Yesnick - February 18, 2021 at 10:35 AM

LB

Our love and sincere condolences go out to Wolf's entire family. May his memory be for a blessing.

Leslie and Shel Belenson

Leslie and Shel Belenson - February 19, 2021 at 10:10 AM

MD

Dear Gruca Family,

*We send our heartfelt condolences to all of you. Wolf was an inspiring patriarch to so many people. May his memory be for a blessing.
Our deepest sympathy, Mark and Karen Diem*

Mark Diem - February 27, 2021 at 06:19 PM