



Barbara Berman Coleman

November 13, 1949 - November 10, 2024

Barbara Berman Coleman, born Barbara Helene Berman, to Alex and Cecil Berman on November 13, 1949, in Chicago, IL, passed away on Sunday, November 10, 2024, after a brief but valiant battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 74, just days before her 75th birthday. She is predeceased by her parents, Alex and Cecil Berman, grandparents Ben and Sadie Levine and Anna and Charles Berman, her aunt and uncle Sheldon and Joyce Levine, and her half-brother Arnold Perl. She leaves behind her loving family, husband Dell and daughter Sharon, as well as grandchildren Alex, Katie and Emily.

Barbara grew up in the Chicago area. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Illinois Urbana Champagne with degrees in Chemistry, Math and Physics. She then earned her Masters in Chemistry from Rice and later in life, her Doctorate in Education from The University of Houston.

Barbara adored her three grandchildren and stayed involved in their lives. Family was everything to her.

Barbara was active in the sisterhood at Temple Emanu El and in more recent years, at Beth Yeshurun, where she and her husband Dell attended and helped lead services regularly. She was incredibly proud to move her parents' Holocaust Torah to Beth Yeshurun, where she will continue to support its maintenance in perpetuity.

Barbara was an educator and administrator for much of her career. She edited two lab manuals for HISD, something she was quite proud of, and even after retiring from Pasadena ISD, she continued teaching in addition to her role as a tax professional with HR Block. From time to time she would hear from her former students, who remembered her fondly and credited her with being a true educator.

Barbara loved to travel, with Israel and Hawaii being some of her favorite destinations. She especially loved taking cruises.

The Coleman/Cohan family would like to express appreciation to Barbara's caregivers from Serenity Pointe, Home Instead, and Simplex and also the responsive and compassionate care from everyone at Constellation Hospice. Also thank you to clergy and staff at

Beth Yeshurun
and the supportive faith community there.

A funeral service will be held at 2:30 PM on Monday, November 11, 2024, at Emanu El Memorial Park, 8341 Bissonnet St., Houston, Texas 77074 in the Kagan-Rudy Chapel.

May her memory be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Beth Yeshurun Torah ReJEWvenation Fund (<https://www.bethyeshurun.org/payment.php>).

Cemetery Details

Emanu El Memorial Park

8341 Bissonnet St
Houston, TX 77074

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 11. 2:30 PM (CT)

Emanu El Memorial Park
8341 Bissonnet St
Houston, TX 77074

The Kagan-Rudy Chapel.

Tribute Wall

ST

“ I only knew Barbara during tax season, and our time together was limited to those annual visits. She never spoke at length about her life or her many accomplishments, yet from the very beginning, she was someone I deeply admired. There was a calm, steady wisdom about her, a patience, intelligence, and kindness that made you feel safe, understood, and respected.

Tax preparation was something I truly dreaded, and I often arrived unorganized and overwhelmed. Without judgment or frustration, Barbara always met me exactly where I was. She consistently went above and beyond, even scheduling me at the end of her day so that if our meetings ran long, sometimes well over two hours, she could give me the time I needed. She never rushed me. She never made me feel like a burden. Instead, she gently brought order to my chaos, helping me leave each year more prepared, more confident, and far less anxious than when I arrived.

Only after reading her obituary did I begin to understand the depth of the life she lived, her devotion to education, her unwavering commitment to family, her faith, and her service to others. It was both humbling and profoundly moving to realize that the very qualities I strive to live by every day were already so fully embodied in her. Long before I knew her story, she was quietly teaching me what it looks like to be patient, generous with one's time, and deeply human.

It is especially sad to learn this after her passing, to realize that someone who had such a steady, positive influence on my life was already a role model to me without my knowing it. Since Barbara has been gone, my taxes, and honestly, my sense of organization, have not been the same. Her presence brought clarity, reassurance, and calm, and that absence has been deeply felt.

Barbara made a difference in my life in ways she may never have known. I am profoundly grateful that our paths crossed, even if only briefly each year. She mattered. She still matters. And her kindness,

patience, and quiet strength will remain with me.

Samson Tefera - December 14, 2025 at 10:45 AM

SA

“ *Barbara helped us as a couple filing taxes for the first time. She made my husband feel comfortable and helped us through the many joyous and difficult life events we went through over the past 7 years. We always felt we could trust her to help us figure out how to best file our taxes. We will most definitely miss her joy, candor and acumen.*

Sumiyah Ahmed - April 03, 2025 at 12:02 AM

DL

“ *Just learned about Ms. Coleman's passing this morning -- she demonstrated the upmost professionalism as my tax preparer for 10 years. May she rest in peace and her family find the solace, peace and quiet they deserve. Blessings to all.*

Daniel Lopez - March 14, 2025 at 11:15 AM

NP

“ *Barbara prepared our taxes for several years. She was professional, knowledgeable, and nice. We are very sorry to hear about her passing. May she rest in peace! Our condolences to her family and loved ones.*

Nikie Marie Lopez Pagan - March 04, 2025 at 04:24 PM

RO

“ I'm so dumbfounded. Ms. Barbara did my taxes for several years and her candor, professionalism and love for life left me always wanting to see her to get her latest life updates and to have me share mine. She was an absolute gem of a strong woman with accomplishments too numerous to mention and I can't believe she is gone for 3 months already and I had no clue. I called to get my taxes done and they said she retired. I pictured her on a beach somewhere enjoying the sun rays. Enjoy the sunrays in Heaven Ms. Barbara. thank you for everything. May you rest with angels!

Ronnie - March 01, 2025 at 02:34 PM

VP

“ I was just notified of Mrs. Barbara's passing today. Sending my love and prayers for Mrs. Barbara's Family! Mrs. Barbara was my tax pro and she was such a sweet person. I will miss her and our appointment time we use to have.

V Phillips

Vanessa Phillips - January 12, 2025 at 07:15 PM



AH

I am so very sorry, hearing this.. she was a beautiful and lovely person.. a terrible loss for the Jewish community.. sending love to her family.. Ann and Peter Hotez

Ann Hotez - January 23, 2025 at 05:37 PM

KY

“ I was and still am deeply saddened by Barbara's passing, which I learned accidentally two days after the funeral service. I met Barbara when I was looking for a tax advisor and after talking with many others. Barbara impressed me as soon as I met her. I was her client for several years and we developed a friendly relationship. When we met, we would first talk about our families and then would get to business. I admired her clear mind, her stamina, the wealth of knowledge she possessed. She was truly one of a kind!!! May her soul rest in peace! I extend my sincere condolences to her family!

Katerina Yamalidou

Katerina Yamalidou - November 17, 2024 at 08:34 PM

TM

“ With sincerest sympathies,

Our hearts go out to her husband, Dell, her daughter, Sharon, and her grandchildren, Alex, Katie, and Emily. Barbara's remarkable spirit, brilliant mind, professionalism, poise, and kindness touched the lives of many associates at H&R Block. Her memory will forever remain in our hearts, and she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

*Tanya Marks
Block Advisors
H&R Block*

Tanya Marks - November 12, 2024 at 01:30 PM

JS

“ *An incredible force of nature, Barbara is one of the strongest people I've ever known. She stood by my side and held me up during my darkest hours. I will miss you deeply.*

Jennifer Sutton



Jennifer Sutton - November 11, 2024 at 12:39 PM