



Barbara Melnik

September 19, 1951 - November 19, 2023

Barbara Jean Woodell Melnik, 72, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and good friend, was born September 19, 1951 in Detroit, Michigan and passed away on November 19, 2023, in Houston, Texas, surrounded by her family and loved ones.

Barbara was raised in Oak Park, Michigan and attended Oak Park High School. She received her B.A. degree in Russian Language from the prestigious University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and an M.B.A. from Wayne State University in Detroit, a rarity in its time for women.

Barbara had a strong work ethic throughout her life devoting her time, energy, and passion to many varied careers. One of her more memorable jobs was driving a Good Humor ice cream truck during Summer break while in college. Early in her career, she aided Soviet immigrants and, later, Vietnamese refugees assimilate to everyday life in the United States. She used her business acumen in multiple enterprises, co-founding Hou-Tex Metals in 1979 and later creating and managing her own travel agency, Vision Travel, in the 1990s. In more recent years, Barbara had the opportunity to work in a field that she was most passionate about, volunteering and helping others as the Director of the non-profit organizations, R.S.V.P and Foster Grandparents Program that both provided seniors with opportunities to work within their local communities which benefited them just as much as those they worked with.

Barbara always had a love of culture and world travel. One of her first exposures was a semester abroad in Leningrad, USSR and after college graduation spent a year in Israel after the Yom Kippur war working with immigrants in the absorption center in Arad. She traveled to many parts of the world such as France, Spain, Russia, Hungary, Czech Republic, England, Denmark, and Norway just to name a few. She loved her annual trips to Mexico having visited over 30 times over the years. She was also proficient in over five different languages.

She enjoyed watching sports, being a lifelong devotee to University of Michigan football and a late-in-life fan of the Houston Astros. In more recent years she fell in love with genealogy and enjoyed tracing her family roots back to Bohemia, Poland, and other Eastern European countries. Her greatest joy and accomplishment was raising her three successful children and the beautiful families they created. Barbara will be remembered for her lifelong devotion to family and helping others.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Allan and Dorothy Woodell, and her brother, Mark Woodell.

Barbara is survived by a devoted family including sister Leslie Woodell Kaner (Roy Kaner), children Ilan Melnik (Julieta Levy), Irit Busany (Jonathan Busany), and Ryan Melnik (Michelle Mizrahi); loving grandchildren Sivan, Shayna, Sender and Segev Melnik, Ariel and Daniella Busany, and Galit Melnik; and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Hadassah at www.hadassah.org/donate.

A funeral service was held at 3:00 pm on Monday, November 20, 2023 at Beth

Jacob Cemetery, 2300 Almeda Genoa Rd, Houston, TX, 77047

Cemetery Details

Beth Jacob Cemetery

2300 Almeda Genoa Rd
Houston, TX 77047

Previous Events

Funeral Service

NOV 20. 3:00 PM (CT)

Beth Jacob Cemetery
2300 Almeda Genoa Rd
Houston, TX 77047

Tribute Wall

RL

“ My deepest condolences to Barbara’s family on her passing. I met Barbara some 20 years ago through our volunteer work for Hadassah. She was a brilliant, kind, and funny woman who adored her family. I will miss my dear friend. May her memory be a comfort and a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Robin Littman - November 23, 2023 at 12:15 AM

WM

“ My condolences to Barbara's family. I've known Barbara since elementary school through high school. We reconnected on Facebook and I have seen her at one of our high school reunions. She was very accomplished and a world traveler. In her later years, her health deteriorated and she lost her mobility. She was one of the most kindest, gentlest souls I knew.

William (Bill) Molner - November 21, 2023 at 02:21 AM

PS

“ My deepest condolences to Barb’s family. She was a very kind smart woman. I hope her blessed memories live on in your hearts forever. She will be Missed here in Michigan and Houston. Barb was a great mother and Grandmother! Rest in peace 🌟

Phyllis Novigrad Samsky - November 20, 2023 at 10:42 AM



“ To the entire Barbara Melnik Family: I am so sorry at the passing of my friend of very longstanding. Barb and I met in the 7th grade and remained friends all of these years. I have so many fond memories of our escapades and will be happy to share some with you at a later date. May her memory be a blessing to you all. Love, Linda Novograd in Detroit.

Linda Novograd - November 20, 2023 at 08:59 AM

EG

“ Ilan, Irit and Ryan
I am so sorry for the loss of your mom. May her memory be a blessing. Barbara was an amazing women. She was brilliant and full of life. She was so very proud and loved all of you so very much. Barbara and I have been best friends for 41 years. We shared so much together, she will be missed, will remain forever in our hearts. She always talked about all of you, all of you and Juliette, Yoni , Michelle and ALL the grandkids. You gave her so much nachus. I loved Barbara and love all of you..

Ellen Guest - November 19, 2023 at 08:16 PM

SK

“ I am heartbroken to learn about the passing of my true real friend of over 40 years. We shared our personal stories of raising our kids, we laughed together and genuinely cared for each other. Barbara, your good caring heart will remain with me forever. Will love you to eternity. Your loving friend, Sara Kurtis

sara kurtis - November 19, 2023 at 07:12 PM

SK

*Irit, Ilan and Ryan,
Please accept my deep condolences upon the passing of your dear mother. She was a special, kind human being. May her memory be a solace to you and to all who knew her. Love, Sara kurtis*

sara kurtis - November 19, 2023 at 07:16 PM