



Bernard Victor Silver

December 3, 1950 - December 30, 2025

Bernard Victor Silver passed away on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at the age of 75, surrounded by his loving family.

Bernie was born on December 3, 1950, to Irving and Anne Silver in New Haven, Connecticut. He was the oldest of three siblings, followed by his brother, Michael, and his sister, Karen. All three of them attended Clark University.

He later studied Clinical Psychology at Memphis State University, where he obtained his PhD. It was during an internship that he met the love of his life, Jan Levit, at the University of Florida in Gainesville. They had a month-long whirlwind romance before Jan's internship ended. It wasn't until he claimed to be conveniently 'flying through Houston' months later that she knew he didn't forget her. The two were never apart after that.

The couple next moved to New Orleans, where they painstakingly restored a rambling Victorian house. After they had their first child and only daughter, Jessica, they moved to Houston to be closer to Jan's family, where Jessica was quickly succeeded by Joseph, Joshua, and Jacob.

In Houston, Bernie spent his career at TIRR, The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research, where he became the Director of Psychology. He dedicated his

life to helping those with brain and spinal cord injuries. He was well respected by his patients and colleagues, who spoke highly of him at every opportunity. Many of these same colleagues cared and advocated for him when he became disabled in the later years of his life. Outside of work, Bernie and Jan cultivated a close-knit group of friends, many of whom shared their love of live music. They regularly supported musicians at house concerts and local venues.

Bernie indulged Jan in all of her ideas and adventures. From international travel to endless gatherings with her large family, to creating a large family of their own, he always wanted to make her happy. However, Bernie was happiest at home, and their second homes in Round Top and Galveston, especially when snuggling with his rescue dalmatian, Sophie. In Round Top, like in New Orleans, they found joy in decorating their 19th-century farmhouse with folk art and bringing life back to antique furniture. In Galveston, they loved sharing the beach with their children and grandchildren.

Bernie's children and grandchildren were the joys of his life. He was dedicated to his children and never missed a single baseball, soccer, or football game. He frequently went straight from the office to the sideline in a full suit. He was also the parent on homework duty, up until all hours with his children proofreading their papers and helping them study for tests. Papa, as he was affectionately called by his grandchildren, was a present and loving grandfather. He loved watching any and all sports games with Ben, doing art projects with Annie, receiving phone calls from Molly, who loved to 'call Papa,' and he treasured his weekly Friday afternoons with Miles. His family is especially grateful that he was able to meet his newest granddaughters, Jane and Morgan, who were born one day apart a month before he entered the hospital.

Bernie is preceded in death by his parents, Irving and Anne, and his brother,

Michael. He is survived and immensely loved by his wife of 45 years, Jan, his sister, Karen, his children Jessica, Joseph, Joshua, and Jacob, his son-in-law Ori, his daughter-in-law Alyssa, and his grandchildren Ben, Annie, Miles, Molly, Jane, and Morgan.

A funeral service will be held at 11:30 am on Friday, January 2, 2026, in the Sophia and Jack Bender Memorial Chapel at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery, 7445 Awty School Lane, Houston, Texas 77055.

A livestream of the service is available at the following link: <https://venue.streamspot.com/f8d04b5b>

The family would like to give special thanks to Elsa Hernandez and Beatriz Tovar who loved and cared for the Silver family for over 30 years and were devoted to Bernie in his final days.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that donations are made in honor of Bernie to Lazarus House, a special gym dedicated to rehabilitation for those facing chronic illnesses and conditions (<https://thelazarushouse.org/>).

Cemetery Details

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.
Houston, TX 77055

Previous Events

Cemetery Chapel Service

JAN 2. 11:30 AM (CT)

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery
7445 Awty School Ln.
Houston, TX 77055

The Sophia and Jack Bender Memorial Chapel. <https://venue.streamspot.com/f8d04b5b>

Tribute Wall

AN

“ Someone once said about a woman she knew, "It was a pleasure to be in the same room with her." I didn't believe it. Surely she must have said something or done something.
But Bernie was one of those people. It was a pleasure to be in the same room with him. He didn't have to say or do anything. If he just sat in a chair in the corner of the room, that room was a glad place to be. Something inside him radiated peace and even joy. Always. And Sophie is like that as well, to an amazing degree. How fortunate are his children to have grown up in that household. How unfortunate for all of us that he is gone from us.

Ann Nunes - January 06 at 10:40 PM

AR

“ Bernie was a beautiful soul and father to an amazing family. I grew up with his son, Josh —one of the best people I know. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. I spent a lot of time at the Silver household as a kid. Bernie, his beloved Sophie at his side, always welcomed me at the door with a smile and simply radiated warmth. In his last years and going through his own set of health struggles, he took an interest in mine. He will forever be missed!

Austin Rodd - December 31, 2025 at 08:10 PM

BJ

“ We were friends since the beginning of college, when we lived a few rooms from each other, and later shared an apartment with two others during junior and senior years. I remember Bernie as quiet, positive, caring, and a bit on the cynical side, which appealed to me. He had broad interests and I remember him managing the basketball team and working the lights at theater productions. But of his interests I most remember that which earned him the nickname "rock musicologist," as he took pride in frequently ordering new LP releases, mostly of rock groups, and becoming very knowledgeable about each band. We have lost a good one.

Bob Jacobson - December 31, 2025 at 05:49 PM

JO

“ Dear Jan, As “Meditation Friends”, we extend to you and your family our deepest sympathy on the passing of your “Bersherta Bernie”. May you find some modicum of comfort in the multiple warm memories you shared. Please accept our sympathies, Shalom, Joan and Max Lupuloff

Joan - December 31, 2025 at 05:23 PM

BM

“ This one hits hard. I knew Bernie at Clark, and was as I happy to see him at our 50th reunion in Worcester in 2022. What a sweet, beautiful human being. May he live forever in our memories. Barry Herman

Barry Herman MD - December 31, 2025 at 03:16 PM