



Herman "Bubba" Silberstein

September 12, 1936 - May 4, 2023

Herman "Bubba" Silberstein passed away at his home early morning May 4, 2023, at the age of 86. He was predeceased by his sister Frances Evensky and his brother-in-law William "Bill" Tarnopol. He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Maxine Silberstein, his children Brent and Steffani Silberstein, his sister-in-law Maureen Tarnopol, his brother-in-law Allan and Shirley Weiss, his niece Lorraine and Burt Wolf, his nephew Eddie and Vicki Denaburg, his nephew Jerry and Christine Tarnopol, his niece Marci and Glen Levin, his nephew Craig and Leslie Weiss, his nephew Brad and Sydney Weiss, and all of his grand nieces, grand nephews, cousins and close friends.

Bubba was born on September 12, 1936, to parents Johanna (Sussman) and Melvin Silberstein of Dyersburg, Tennessee, where he and his late sister Frances lived for their first 9 years. After leaving Dyersburg, the family relocated to Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis gave both Bubba and Frances the chance to receive a strong frum Jewish education. The move also afforded Bubba an opportunity to build a community, where later in life he would spearhead many school reunions ensuring those connections remained. It was at the Anshei Sphard Beth-El Emeth Congregation in Memphis, where he began to understand and nurture his relationship with Judaism. This connection to Judaism, in turn, developed an indestructible bond to his late father, Melvin Silberstein, who the chapel is named after.

In 1956 at age 20, a young, handsome, and stylish Bubba, arrived on the scene in Houston, Texas to begin his career in retail at Foley's Department Store. Not only did he have an eye for fashion, Bubba also had a knack for numbers. This added to his success in serving as a retail division chairman of The United Way, while at Foley's. After seven successful years at Foley's, Bubba was presented with an opportunity to manage the Ladies Department at Walter Pye's - a well-known, family-owned retail store in Houston, Texas. He loved his job and cherished his relationship with the Pye family. Bubba's strong work ethic and precise understanding of numbers, played an integral role in the Pye Family, promoting him to an officer and partner which lasted for the next 27 years.

While at Walter Pye's, he was set up on many dates... However, one date stood out from all the rest. In early 1968, Bubba was introduced to Maxine Weiss, a senior attending The University of Houston. He was immediately enamored with Maxine and proposed to her that same year. They were married on October 27, 1968, in Galveston Texas.

Over the years while being managing partner at Walter Pye's, he continued broadening his involvement in the community. He served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center, Chairman of the State of Israel Bonds, and Board Member of Jewish Federation of Greater Houston. He also served on numerous fundraising committees throughout Houston, on a pro bono basis, generously lending his experience to their non-profit fundraising campaigns.

In 1991, Bubba returned to school, signing up for continuing education Business courses, with a focus in Fundraising, at Rice University.

By 1993, Bubba left his long-time career and partnership in retail to pursue his second passion in non-profit fundraising. And by 1994, age 58, he established

his own fundraising consulting firm in Houston, The Silberstein Group. His strong personal and business relationships made this career move into fundraising consultant successful and rewarding, while continuing to help others reach their goals.

Throughout his years in Houston, he continued his Jewish studies and prayer participation as an active member of Congregation Beth Yeshurun, where he participated in a variety of roles with the JB Greenfield Chapel. In the Chapel, Bubba served as an assistant Gabbai, and whenever invited or asked to lead service, he was ready and honored to do so. Never losing ties to his religious upbringing, later in life he would often divide his time between the JB Greenfield Chapel, United Orthodox and Aishel House on the Sabbath and holidays.

Bubba was a true mensch. An incredibly kindhearted individual who cared deeply about family, friends, and community. He never missed an opportunity to arrange family reunions, in St. Louis, for all his cousins. Bubba was the last survivor of his 16 first cousins. He made it a mission to ensure the surviving members, of his family, knew of each other and will carry on with these Family Reunions for decades to follow.

May his memory be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Bubba can be made to the following organizations:

Aishel House
1955 University Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77030
AishelHouse.org

JB Greenfield Chapel at Beth Yeshurun
4525 Beechnut
Houston, Texas 77096
Bethyeshurun.org

Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center
5601 S. Braeswood Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77096
Erjcchouston.org

There was a Cemetery Chapel Service at 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 7, 2023 in The Bender Memorial Chapel at Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery, 7445 Awty School Rd., Houston, Texas, 77055. The service will be livestreamed at <https://venue.streamspot.com/f8d04b5b>

Cemetery Details

Beth Yeshurun Post Oak Cemetery

7445 Awty School Ln.
Houston, TX 77055

Previous Events

Cemetery Chapel Service

MAY 7. 3:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

LG

“ I was just trying to send him something and found this. He was my very first roommate at the crazy age of 21. We had a great time and he taught me a lot about a work ethic that stayed with me forever. I hope the world had as much fun with him as I was fortunate to have done.

larry gandal - July 09, 2024 at 09:43 AM

“ *Maxine and Family,*

I first met Bubba approximately 70 years ago at the University of Alabama. After I graduated and would go back to visit, I would also see him. His enthusiasm and friendliness were always contagious. We lost touch for several years as I pursued my career. However, when I knew I would be going to Houston to live, I did remember that Bubba was in Houston. I called him before arriving as he was the only person I knew in Houston at the time.

He was so friendly and gracious to introduce me to Houston and set me up with someone to take me to Rosh Hashanah services at Emanu El. Our friendship expanded enormously and through the years our friendship grew and encompassed many things, including trips and many activities. I often went to the movies with Bubba and Maxine and Maxine and I always ate Nutty Buddies there. Bubba always kept me up-to-date whenever Alabama had a basketball or football game scheduled.

Some of our most memorable trips included Florida and Puerto Rico. While on the plane going to Puerto Rico the stewardess asked our names. When Bubba said Silberstein and I said Goldstein she thought we were joshing.

I had the privilege of being the Emcee at Bubba and Maxine's rehearsal dinner. We shared many memorable things together throughout the years. I had the honor to be chosen as Brent's godfather. Bubba was blessed by a loving wife and wonderful children.

I respected Bubba so much because of his strong dedication to Judaism and active participation. I admired his deeply felt involvement in Aishel House and was thrilled when he and Maxine were honorees at the special dinner.

Bubba was considerate and unselfish in every way and I loved him

as a brother. I will miss him terribly and am so grateful I had the opportunity to speak with him the night before he passed. Loretta and Maureen personally knew him well and share in our sadness.

My heart goes out to Maxine, Steffani and Brent. Bubba was certainly a mensch in every sense and we will all miss him so very much.

Harold Goldstein

Harold Goldstein - May 11, 2023 at 04:28 PM



“ *Healing & Hope Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Herman "Bubba" Silberstein.*



May 10, 2023 at 03:54 PM



“ *Maxine and Family .. my heart goes out to you all. Memories of 1968 pop up when you and Bubba were married, Even though I moved away from Houston, we always had a close connection....you are my "big Sister". Whenever I would call Bubba he had a cheery welcome and asked about the "Boys". He was a good neshuma. He will be missed . Sorry I could not be there to give you a hug. May his memory be for a blessing. Love you Molly*

Molly Stryer - May 08, 2023 at 11:25 PM

IW

“ I met Bubba at the Claridge Hotel Coffee shop in Memphis on Yom Kippur in 1948. We had lunch together (don't tell anyone). It was probably our last Yom Kippur meal. Bubba was in from Dyersburg with his family for the Holidays and we became lifelong friends. We went thru Hebrew school at Anshei, Bar Mitzvahs, Snowden Jr., Central High, and countless adventures and experiences. His father, Melvin Silberstein, and my father, Carl Weiss, were dear friends with a devotion to Anshei Sphard and Judaism. Bubba and I had the tradition of his chanting the Haftorah on the first day of Rosh Hashana and I did it on the second day. His father always had Maftir Yonah on Yom Kippur. Bubba traveled to Memphis to hear me chant the Haftorah on the 67th anniversary of my Bar Mitzvah. After my Father passed away, I was in Houston during the time that I was saying Kaddish for him. Bubba went to great lengths to assure that there was a minyun for me.
He will be greatly missed.

Irving Weiss

Irving Weiss - May 07, 2023 at 05:26 PM

AD

“ Bubba was a great friend to me, Valerie and our entire family. He was an exceptional guy...always interested in others, and always fun to talk to and be with....what an engaging personality he had! For over 50 years we had so much fun sharing interesting stories and our life and business experiences.
Bubba was loved and respected by all who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maxine, Steffani and Brent. Abbey and Valerie Doneger

Abbey Doneger - May 07, 2023 at 03:42 PM

LB

“ My Uncle Bubba was one of the most special people in my life. I didnt know too many others that had a godfather and this relationship was the most special bond between us. I have saved all my birthday cards from the last number of years because they were so special to me. My Uncle Bubba never ever forgot my birthday. I will miss him dearly and forever hold him in my heart.

Libbie Smolensky Binkiewicz - May 07, 2023 at 02:18 PM

ML

I met Bubba last summer at Aishel house, and felt a strong connection to him. His fundraising enabled Aishel and many other nonprofits to survive and prosper. I am proud to have know him, if ever so briefly !

Marc Lewyn - May 07, 2023 at 11:08 PM

AF

“ Bubba was a life long friend and neighbor who I grew up with in Memphis. I always admired Bubba. He left a wonderful legacy for what he did for others. He will always be special.
Avron Fogelman

Avron Fogelman - May 07, 2023 at 01:12 PM

JA

“ Bubba was my favorite cousin. I cherished his visits to St.Louis. He was a sweet, gentle soul who I loved dearly. Bubba kept the Silberstein family together on news and get togethers. He will be missed by family and friends. I love you Bubba and Maxine. You will be so missed.

Jane - May 07, 2023 at 11:03 AM

JB

“ Phillip and Joan (life-long friends to Bubba!!) We grew up with Bubba and shared many fun and happy occasions with him as we went through our sports and other activities, B'nai B'rith, and things of that nature with him. As we got to see more of him when we stayed at Chabad in Houston we also saw another side of him as a very capable and loving man as he helped us and our children navigate though our granddaughter's illness at MD Anderson!! He will be missed by us, your family, and many others. May you be comforted with the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. Love,
Joan and Phillip Bum

Joan and Phillip Baum - May 06, 2023 at 10:23 PM

ES

“ Bubba I love you--you will be sadly missed but never forgotten--- may God be with You,Maxine,Steph,and Brent--Roll Tide-Eddie

Eddie Sapir - May 06, 2023 at 07:13 PM

MB

“ I always considered him a soulmate since we shared a bad ticker. Wonderful person who will be missed.
Mickey Bloome

Michael Bloome - May 06, 2023 at 10:40 AM

DR

“ I have so many great memories from watching Houston Rocket games to spaghetti church lunches. Bubba had such a big heart and gave back to the communities he loved working with. We will dearly miss him and i wish your entire family a peaceful time together in grieving.
Love
Daryl Reichstein

Daryl reichstein - May 04, 2023 at 06:28 PM

BB

We are so sorry for your loss. Our sympathies to you, Brent & Stephanie.

Barbara & Marshall Bendalin

Barbara Bendalin - May 04, 2023 at 08:27 PM

CW

Cedric and I are so sad to hear the news of Bubba's passing. He was so wonderful to come and visit Cedric, twice!

*Much love,
Carol Wise*

carol wise - May 05, 2023 at 11:22 AM



So very sorry to hear about Bubba. My condolences to you and all your family

Anne Joachim - May 05, 2023 at 06:10 PM

DH

A true mensch!

Dennis Hanovich - May 06, 2023 at 12:12 PM

JP

Bubba was my/our connection to the Silberstein family. I remember well the cousin's reunion he organized and the DVD sharing family history that came from that reunion. I remember his--and Maxine's--visits to the SF Bay Area. His phone calls to catch up. His updates on family goings on, including the passing of various cousins. I always enjoyed our conversations. I so understand what loss feels like. As a friend told me, grief is the price one pays for love. Maxine, enjoy the memories of your 54 years together, and treasure all the wonderful moments. In your sadness, know that the sadness comes from the many years spent together--and treasure those years, something that can never be taken away from you.

Jeffrey Pfeffer - May 06, 2023 at 08:57 PM

KD

So sorry for your loss. He sounds like an interesting and amazing person. Kathleen Dindoff, Steffani's neighbour.

Kathleen Dindoff - May 07, 2023 at 09:42 AM

RL

*I am so sorry for this tremendous loss, Maxine.
My thoughts and prayers are with you and the family.
So glad Blake and I visited with you this past year.
I adored Bubba, so loving and kind with a huge heart.
Will visit you this summer. I love you and wish I could be there. Rikki*

Rikki Layne - May 07, 2023 at 03:47 PM

AI

*bubba and i spoke every day as i drove home from work..
we were each others confidant.
old girl friends, guy friends and politics. I will sorely
miss him. We loved each other and freely said so often.*

allen iskiwitz - May 07, 2023 at 04:31 PM

GR

Don't recall when I first met Bubba - perhaps real estate or at synagogue. He was so colorful and sincere and always immaculately dressed. His civic and religious contributions were monumental!! His sudden passing has left us all with a great sense of loss. My deepest condolences go out to Maxine, his family and his many friends. Gerard (Jerry) Robins

Gerard Robins - May 08, 2023 at 10:05 PM