



Louis Berman

February 27, 1934 - December 24, 2022

Louis Berman was born on February 27, 1934 in Johannesburg, South Africa to Isaac and Dora Berman. His first language was Yiddish. He learned English when he started elementary school. Despite this inauspicious start, he excelled as a student including winning first prize in Latin and Hebrew across the country. He was the first in his family to attend University and graduated as a physician in 1957. Louis trained in Rheumatology in Chicago and London, was the first certified rheumatologist in South Africa, and trained a generation of medical students; one of whom, Margaret Spitz, later became his wife. They were married for 55 years.

In 1978, they emigrated to Houston to provide their children with greater opportunities and freedom. He built a thriving rheumatology practice and was much beloved by his patients and staff. Louis was a superb physician and an astute diagnostician. Well before other men in his generation, he was remarkably supportive and proud of his wife's academic successes.

Louis was a loving father and grandfather and devoted and proud husband. His children- Elise (Eric Engels), David (Sasha) and Howard (Randee) and grandchildren- Josh, Emma, Rebecca, Gabrielle, Samuel, Ariella, and Sophie- were his most cherished possessions; he was devoted to all of them. He is also survived by his brother Solly and sister Hannah in Melbourne, Australia. He was predeceased by his sister Ray.

Louis developed a love of the beach from his childhood in Muizenberg and an annual beach vacation became a family tradition. His hobbies were listening to classical music and creative writing, and books and books. One of his favorite activities was taking his grandchildren to bookstores and buying armloads of books for them. He had a passion for learning and had a remarkable ability to translate the complex into the simple; a talent much appreciated by his many students. He learned to play the piano by ear listening to his sister's lessons and after retiring took piano lessons himself.

If desired, the Family suggests donations be made to the Jewish Federation of Houston.

The funeral service was held on Monday, December 26, 2022 at Beth Jacob Cemetery, 2300 Almeda Genoa Rd., Houston, TX 77047

The recording of the service can be found at <https://view.oneroomstreaming.com/index.php?data=MTY3MjAxMjY4OTIyNjU0OSZvbmVyb29tLWFKbWluJmNvcHlfbGluaw==>

Live streams may be interrupted due to poor internet signal at the cemetery. Unfortunately these are circumstances outside of our control. The funeral service is also being recorded in real time and will be uploaded as soon as the funeral service is completed. If you are watching the live stream and it is disrupted or you log in and the service isn't available, please check back later.

Cemetery Details

Beth Jacob Cemetery

2300 Almeda Genoa Rd
Houston, TX 77047

Previous Events

Cemetery Chapel Service

DEC **26**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Beth Jacob Cemetery
2300 Almeda Genoa Rd
Houston, TX 77047

Tribute Wall

LC

“ My ever and always memories of Louis will be that each time he saw me, it felt as though it was the first time. He loved giving out big bear hugs and never stopped reminding me to bake him another apple cake. My visits to Houston will not be the same now.

Lola Clayman - December 26, 2022 at 05:18 PM

MM

“ My brother-in-law Louise although short in stature, was a tower of a man. Brilliant,compassionate and generous to a fault. He was a brilliant physician ,caring ,cerebral and always there for his family and friends. I first met Louis when I became romantically involved and engaged to his sister Hannah. Unfortunately in South Africa our paths diverged and although I saw him frequently we never became good friends.However in 2001 we began a new relationship when Hannah and I visited Louis and Margaret in the USA. Subsequently over the next 20 years we never missed a year without visiting Louis and Margaret. Louis and I became very close and he called me his little brother I was his computer tutor, and over the years came to love him dearly. He was one of the most generous and compassionate men I've ever met. Louis was cerebral, but he had an enormous sense of humor, and whoever met him instinctively and immediately liked him. He never talked down to anyone, but had the gift of being able to make an immediate connection be it a janitor or a professor. I will miss his naughty humor and his sense of fun. I loved him dearly and will miss him more than I can say. We will never forget you, Louise I love you and will never forget you.
Merwyn

Merwyn Miller - December 26, 2022 at 02:39 PM

SR

“ I met Louis and Margaret in Montreal over dinner with my partner Steve Clayman. It was a lovely evening and I remember Louis being so funny and interested in getting to know me. He asked lots of questions and seemed genuinely interested. A lovely man.

Shelly Rowe

Shelly Rowe - December 25, 2022 at 09:43 PM

SC

“ My daughter, Randee married Howard in January in Toronto, Canada. It was cold with snow on the ground. I decided to give Louis a gift of an authentic fur trapper's hat. For those of you not familiar with the style, it's a fur-lined hat with ear flaps that tie under the chin. Louis demonstrated his sense of humour when he wore that hat while giving his speech at the wedding. He was such a good sport. Louis actually looked like an authentic fur trapper, except for the tuxedo.

Louis had a particular fondness for Cadbury Mint Chocolate bars. I brought him a few on a visit and he was so excited about the taste. It was apparent the Canadian recipe was the same as the one he grew up with in South Africa. Louis claimed the bars produced in the States were not up to par. My visits henceforth included a bagful of Cadbury Mint Chocolate Bars. Louis gratefully accepted them and immediately hid them only eating a few squares at a time.

I have many fond memories of getting together with Louis. In my parlance, he was a good guy and I will miss him.

My condolences to the family and friends.

Steve Clayman

Steve Clayman - December 25, 2022 at 05:29 PM