



## Bettye Sue Balkin

May 22, 1925 - February 3, 2021

Bettye Sue Balkin (née Sandler) passed away peacefully on February 3, 2021. She was married for 72 years to Bernard Louis Balkin, who predeceased her by 11 days. She is survived by her daughter, Jan Ellen, of Falls Church, VA, Jack Mason Balkin, of Branford, CT, and daughter-in-law Margret Wolfe, also of Branford, CT. Her beloved brother, Sheldon P. Sandler, also predeceased her.

Bettye had as many if not more facets to her. She was very protective of her children, even their childhood misdeeds. But not shy about offering her advice to others about their raising their own children.

She enjoyed traveling with Bernard to the American Bar Association mid-winter and summer meetings, despite weather complaints. It offered her the opportunities to visit the main location of fashion design in the US and marketing ideas, her college major. She always ferreted out the best sales. And always granted her daughter's wishes when she and Jan went to the high-end plus-size store for the latest styles. She was a generous person in that way, and often donated from her own collections to family, friends, and the needy.

She loved the parade of roses into the house from Bernard's backyard garden, and the parade was practically endless seasonally with the array of plantings.

Bettye was "crafty," painting Modigliani reproductions, mounting self-made needlepoint displays throughout the house, including, unfortunately, the one that became an uncomfortable seating cushion for the chair at Jan's bedroom desk.

She was funny, intentionally or not. After choir practice with the Ohev Shalom synagogue many decades ago, she came home to show us kids what practice was like, singing "High on a hill stood a lonely gopher...". She became known as Mrs. Malaprop from that point forward. That funny was only bettered by the return from the Matterhorn ride at Disneyland, gasping as she got off and saying, "I didn't know whether to hold onto the

purse (with all the vacation Amex checks) or hold onto the railing!” Both survived, but it was sometimes hard to tell whether she was serious or not.

Bettye will be remembered for being a Tiger Mom before the term was invented, a successful career woman despite entering the workforce after a long child-rearing gap (to put her kids through college and post-graduate schooling), a devoted spouse, and an independent streak a mile wide.

Many facets that blended into a complex, but all-too-human life.

Donations may be made in Bettye’s honor to Congregation Ohev Sholom in Prairie Village.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Mt. Carmel  
Cemetery**

5529 Ditzler Avenue  
Raytown, MO,

**FEB Zoom Graveside Service**

11:00AM

**5**

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Please email [zoom2@louismemorial.com](mailto:zoom2@louismemorial.com) for zoom ID and  
Passcode  
MO, US

# Comments

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“ Jan and Jack, sending my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your parents. Obviously, I knew all of you from the Ohev Sholom days. I also worked with your mom at a clothing store in my teens and we had a blast together. Great people and always so kind to me.

Kindest Regards,  
Cinde Studna Smothermon

**Cinde Smothermon** - February 09 at 07:15 PM

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“ I wanted to send my thoughts and prayers to Jan and Jack Balkin at this sad time. Losing both parents in such a short span of time has got to be extremely difficult. Both parents were such exceptional people! All my best to the Balkin Family

Scott Francis

**Scott Francis** - February 06 at 08:19 PM

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“ Jan and Jack - your parents were larger than life. I chuckle when I remember your mom calling you - "Jack Mason Balkin" get in the house right this minute and how you always were dressed to the nines as a little girl, Jan.

We lived down the street but saw you all the time as we lived next door to Sherry. You two were inseparable. I also remember your dad treating whoever was close by when the ice cream truck came by. These were such small things - but great memories. The neighborhood lost a bit of glamor when your family moved.

Sincerest condolences to you both and your families.  
Peggy McNeal Maats

**Peggy McNeal Maats** - February 06 at 12:51 PM

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“ Jack and I were friends through high school and afterwards my girlfriend now wife were friends as well. I had many great interactions with Bettye and Bernie and my whole family thought very highly of both (and also Jack). The relationship with the Balkins was my first real introduction to Judaism and I am grateful for the kind education and their lasting friendship. The fact that they tolerated Jack and I driving around South Kansas City in the "Red Bomb" was a hoot. While the end is inevitable for all, it is always sad, even if it is a blessing. Our condolences on both Bettye and Bernie within 11 days.

Best wishes to Jan, Jack and Margaret

Kevin and Carolyn Martin

Kevin and Carolyn Martin - February 05 at 01:24 PM

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“ Jan and I were inseparable in grade school and before, which means Sue was a big part of my early life. Favorite memories are the foods that weren't at my house-swiss cheese sandwiches, and brisket and my first tv dinner. Not being Jewish, I had the wonderful experience of the Jewish Holidays. Sue would hand out compliments, but also would tell you when something was not right. One favorite memory was Sue telling my Mom that it was time to lose my Shirley Temple curls. Not sure how old I was, but I'm sure Sue was right. The same time, though, Sue was the first one to ask my Mom if she needed a ride somewhere, since Mom didn't drive. Sue always made sure that Jan and I had the newest best things to play with. The Balkins move to 113th St., when Jan and I were in 6th grade, left a big void in my life. Sue cared deeply about those she loved, and I was lucky enough to be in that circle. Love and prayers to Jan and Jack and Margaret.

Sherry Gibson Wells - February 04 at 02:19 PM