



Judy Rae Bell

October 30, 1937 - May 2, 2019

Judy Rae Bell, 81, passed away on May 2, 2019. Judy was born to Betty and Carl Nusbaum on October 30, 1937 at Menorah Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. She attended Central Junior High School, transferred to Paseo, and graduated from Southwest High School in 1955. During high school, Judy was involved in B'nai Brith and Young Judea, while dedicating her time as a volunteer in the X-Ray Department at Menorah Hospital.

In 1957, Judy married Martin Bell and continued her university studies, ultimately obtaining her degree in Elementary Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. At UMKC, she was a founding member of Jewish Students and eventually president. She was also president of the Professional Teachers Training for two terms, and a member of student council. Upon graduation, Judy taught at Border Star Elementary for two years. Judy returned to school for her graduate degree in counseling and guidance, graduating in the spring of 1970. While in graduate school, Judy wrote three plays for the school of education.

Upon graduation, Judy started a testing business with Gerie Minkin to diagnose children with learning disabilities. At Congregation Beth Shalom, she taught Sunday school for 30 years and Hebrew High for ten. At the JCC, Judy taught preschool for ten years, and during summers served as the director of Funtime Camp. Judy started JD Imports with Doris Flam, worked at Theatre League in group sales, and later started Group Box Office. Thereafter, Judy worked as the program director for KI Synagogue, House of Lloyd, and Harvesters, from which she had to retire due to illness. Judy was active in Beth Shalom Sisterhood, serving on the board and becoming a life member. She wrote skits for the Sisterhood as well as three fundraising programs for Congregation Beth Shalom, where she also served on the board. Judy was a volunteer at the American Cancer Society. Judy is preceded in death by her parents, Betty and Carl Nusbaum. Judy is survived by her children Carla and Scott Oppenheimer, Stacey Bell, Jamie and Jeff Wordsworth, and Brian and Sheri Bell, all of Kansas City, as well as ten grand children: Samantha, Benjamin and Linzi Oppenheimer, Alina Bell, Kyle, Abby and Brady Wordsworth, Jake, Natalie and Madi Bell.

Funeral services will be held at 3:30pm Sunday, May 5, 2019 at the Louis Memorial

Chapel with burial at Mount Carmel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Events

MAY **Funeral** 03:30PM

5

The Louis Memorial Chapel

6830 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO, US, 64131

MAY **Shiva** 07:30PM

5

At the home of Carla Oppenheimer. Please call funeral home for more information.

None, None, KS, US, None

Comments



“ We were an acquaintances of Judy for many years and we send you our condolences. Reading all she had done was a mind-opener! May you be comforted by your memories.

Sybil and Barry Kaplan. Jerusalem

sybil and barry Kaplan - May 16 at 07:07 AM



“ To add to the lengthy Bio shown here, anybody who was ever involved in activities of Beth Shalom Shule during the 1960's thru the 1990's, would know that Judy and Doris evolved into ONE PERSON. They roamed the hallways of Beth Shalom, 9400 Wornall, KC, Mo, singing the songs that they composed for the next Sisterhood event. They sang their humorous ditty's, trying to memorize the words, in advance of the play. It was funny! Of course, they made it that way. Their some-time piano player was my late wife, Lois Rosenbloom, This duo succeeded in arousing Rabbi Margolies from his office, when he recorded the memory, so that he could quote them at a later Synagogue function. Who said volunteering at The Shule was not a lot of fun? Judy will be remembered for lots of their activities, especially writing and acting in skits/plays.

Ha-mokom y'neichem etchem b'toch sh'ar avelei Tzion V'rushalayim!

~M J Rosenbloom (aka Maynard)

M J ROSENBLOOM - May 09 at 12:06 PM



“ It was a joy to work for Judy Bell as her caregiver for a very brief time. I'm so sorry for your loss. Judy had a lot of personality, that's for certain. I hope she's doing well - wherever she is. RIP.



Lili Stojanov - May 06 at 10:20 PM



“ Lori Zobel lit a candle in memory of Judy Rae Bell



lori zobel - May 05 at 06:30 PM



“ She lived a long busy life. We are thinking of all of you. We wish you comfort knowing she leaves a wonderful, loving, giving family. Alison and Norm Heisler

Alison Heisler - May 05 at 06:13 PM



“ To all the dear Bells...

Judy was like family to me and my family. A close friend of my Aunt Doris, I knew and loved Judy Bell as if she were another Auntie. I loved her intelligent wit, buoyant spirit and abundant, gracious generosity.

I spoke with Judy on Passover eve day - calling her from a liquor store (the third one that day in my search for the perfect wine to make Haroseth for Seder). I told her that I had planned on calling her later, but needed her advise right then. She was not feeling well and we spoke only briefly, hanging up as I assured her I'd definitely get back to her soon. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to speak with her and tell her I loved her.

I will forever cherish our friendship and joy-filled memories of everything from working for her and Aunt Doris at Funtime to traveling to London for a week of theatre. When I think of Judy Bell (I used Bell as if it were her middle name - Belle) I see and hear her laughing. Knowing her has been a privilege and know that her legacy lives on with each and every person she touched. Those who have gone before her are joyfully embracing her wonderful spirit!

My heart and thoughts are with you.

Love,

Jody Ann Lichtor



Jody Lichtor - May 05 at 03:42 PM



“ We are so sorry for the loss of your mother, a very accomplished woman. Her life sounded very rich and complete. It is very hard to lose the matriarch of your family, but spend time remembering the good things she gave you! Love,
Judy & Steve Lindberg

Judy Lindberg - May 05 at 12:45 PM



“ Dear Carla, Stacey, Jamie, Brian and your families, What a special woman! I always loved seeing your mom. Loved her quick wit and humor, combined with tremendous warmth and caring. She was a strong presence and always so supportive through our years growing up at Beth Shalom, in USY. I know her memory is a blessing for me and countless others she touched. Sending prayers of comfort from Israel.
Steve Burnstein

Rabbi Steve Burnstein - May 05 at 12:04 PM



“ “Our deepest condolences to you and your family during this time. Our prayers and blessings are with you
Suzy, Todd, Alex & Ethan Rein

Suzy Rein - May 04 at 11:06 AM



“ To the Bell family, My heart goes out to all of you. I am so very sorry. May her memory be for a blessing. Phillip Goodbinder

Phillip Goodbinder - May 03 at 04:47 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear Judy has passed. She was such a fun, smart lady and I was looking forward to getting to know her better. I'll be thinking of you, Carla, and praying for comfort for you and your family .

Stasha Case - May 03 at 03:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Judy was an inspiration to everyone! She will be missed. Thinking of all of you at this difficult time.
Rochelle Barash

Rochelle Barash - May 03 at 08:19 AM



“ She was a inspiration to me. I will always remember how we teased about her bringing her entire family over for sukkot. Loved her sense of humor. I will miss her.
Linda Weinberg-Hammer

linda weinberg-Hammer - May 03 at 01:37 AM



“ We are so sorry to learn of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family.
Vicki, Gary, Bree & Jacob Katz

Vicki Katz - May 03 at 01:20 AM



“ Dear Carla, Stacey, Jamie, Brian and Family,
Judy was a pistol...her energy was contagious, creativity and talent poured out of her!!! I was in she and Doris's shows at Beth Shalom...always fun with Just as producer and director. We taught pre-school together and shared family meals...so many good times.
I am deeply sorry for your loss but know the talent scouts are waiting for her to start auditions in Heaven!. RIP my friend!!!

salli katz - May 02 at 11:38 PM



“ My heartfelt sympathy to the family. Though I have lived in Texas since graduating from Southwest, I enjoyed my friendship with Judy as we shared our senior year. We also worked at Three Sisters together on Thursday nights and Saturdays. It was there that Judy, who was fluent in Yiddish, taught me the meaning of drek and tinniff. I regret that the geographical distance prevented our having much contact in recent years. We'll miss her.
Judy Minkin

Judith Minkin - May 02 at 08:57 PM



“ Dearest Carla, Scott and family. I am truly devastated to read this notice about my long-time friend, Judy. Although we sadly never followed through with our pledge to each other of "I mean it, let's plan to get together, soon," we each sincerely meant it. Judy had the same demeanor throughout her life - good times and challenged times with a perpetual smile. I loved her. When we were young we would get together doing silly things with both your parents and then later Judy and I would write skits together. BDE - what a legacy of how to live life she leaves all of you and all of us.

Felicia Weiner - May 02 at 07:54 PM



“ I see a like I've known Judy my whole life! Especially during the last few years, she has always shown a great interest in my happenings and how I'm doing. Always deeply appreciated that. I know she was incredibly proud of her children and grandchildren and I loved to watch her beam when one of them read torah. May her memory be a blessing always.

Suzy rieber - May 02 at 06:55 PM



“ Judy was a lady with a great sense of humor. Working with her at Beth Shalom on programs was always a challenge. She had great talent . I send my sincere condolences to the family for a lady who lived and loved life.
Love to all
Marlene Katz

marlene katz - May 02 at 06:06 PM



“ To the Bell Family. So sorry for your loss. She will be missed & remembered by many & her memory will be as a blessing.

Barb and Skip Rein - May 02 at 05:53 PM



“ Barb And Skip Rein lit a candle in memory of Judy Rae Bell



Barb and Skip Rein - May 02 at 05:52 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of Judy at the old JCC on Holmes with aerial tennis! She was such a lovely lady and always so nice to me! My condolences go out to all of her family.

Mike Boresow - May 02 at 05:40 PM



“ Carla, Stacey, Brian and Jamie -- I remember your mom being so very warm and welcoming. Always a smile. As a child and young adult, I felt happy and secure whenever she was around. Her memory is a blessing for me. May it be for you as well. --Jeff Mann

Jeff Mann - May 02 at 04:45 PM



“ Oh, noooo. My heart sank when i saw this notice. It's a good thing i can type this because i am too choked up to speak. So, so sorry. What a fighter. What a spunky firecracker. What humor. I received many cards of support over the past few years, but there was one from your mom that was the best bolstering i could receive. I have attempted to post on this site a photo of our mothers together. Mark joins me in sending very deepest condolences.



karin lichterman and Mark Edelman - May 02 at 04:44 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



karin - May 02 at 03:40 PM



“ Dear Carla, Stacey, Jamie and Brian,
Thank you for allowing me to be with Judy last Saturday, to tell her all the wonderful memories we had together and telling her how much she was loved by everyone. All who knew her felt a special closeness to her. She was so special that our memories of Judy will be a blessing to all of us.
With our deepest sympathy
Carol and Marvin Goldstein

Carol Goldstein - May 03 at 01:05 PM



“ Dear Carla, may you find comfort in the many memories you have made and the tributes from those who shared so many good times with your mother. May her memory be for a blessing.
Sonny Singer

Max Singer - May 03 at 05:37 PM



“ Please accept my deepest sympathy on the passing of a wonderful, loving, kind, smart and funny lady who I got to know from attending Prayer Works at Beth Shalom. She will indeed be missed by all of us and especially me. My heartfelt sympathy.
Alice Lewinsohn

Alice Lewinsohn - May 04 at 08:20 PM



“ Dear Carla, Stacey, Brian, and Jamie,
Judy was one of the most genuine people I know. She said what she meant, and meant what she said. She was deliciously sarcastic. I went into each conversation with her wondering what she would say next, and came away from each conversation laughing. But what struck me most was how she overcame all the medical issues she faced. Truly unbelievable, and a real credit to her strength and character. From The Appleby House forward, I appreciate having known her and having benefited so much from her.
Scott Eveloff

Scott E Eveloff - May 05 at 07:48 AM



“ It's a strange world without Judy Bell and Doris Flam. I always enjoyed Judy's flaming wit.
Gary Blumenthal - May 06 at 04:29 PM



“ Dear Bell Family. Your mother's genuine warmth always brightened my day. She was mighty fine lady and will be missed. My condolences to all of you.

David Krantz - May 25 at 05:53 PM