



## Lawrence "Larry" Gelb

April 23, 1927 - June 7, 2022

As the saying goes, "Life is a journey with birth being the beginning and death being the end." I've reached that point after 95 years of a happy, eventful, and meaningful life.

I was born April 23, 1927, in Jackson Heights, New York, to Frederica and Louis Gelb. I graduated from Stuyvesant High School and New York University, earning a degree in Education. During World War II, I served in the Navy as a Corpsman.

My professional career started as a physical education teacher in New York, followed by a job halfway across the country at the Jewish Community Center in Kansas City as Assistant Director of Physical Education. After three years, I established Lettercraft Printing and Advertising, which I sold after forty years to retire and start a career of volunteerism and leadership in Jewish organizations.

After learning the basics as Chair of several committees, I became President of Congregation B'nai Jehudah (1984-1987). Prior to my presidency of the congregation, I served as Brotherhood President.

My second tenure as a congregation president occurred when my family left B'nai Jehudah to establish Congregation Kol Ami. After serving as Treasurer (2003-2005), I became President (2005-2007). My career there culminated by serving as Membership chair (2007-2010).

Continuing my congregational career, I became the first president of Temple Sinai (2012-2014), after helping to establish the congregation. I filled a vacancy in the Presidency (2015-2016). I was elected to the presidency again (2018), and eventually became President/Treasurer until 2022.

This concluded my congregational career, after being president of three synagogues, helping establish two, and being chair of numerous committees. My thanks go to Rabbis Solomon, Zedek, Levin, Taub, Davis, and Silbersher, for their patience and guidance.

During that portion of my life, I served as the first President of the Midwest region of the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods. My passion and belief in the ideals of Brotherhood was further exemplified by service as various chairs or member of committees and being reelected for three more years as regional President. Somewhere along the way, I worked in being chair of the Brotherhood's Jewish Chautauqua Society.

Looking for volunteer service that could be done with family, I volunteered at Menorah Medical Center, Nelson Atkins Museum's Roselle Court, and the Meals on Wheels program.

I was honored to be the recipient of the Selma Feld Heart of CASA Award, the Jewish Community Center David Belzer Distinguished Service Award, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization Devotional Service Award, B'nai B'rith Service to Women Award, B'nai Jehudah Brotherhood Hall of Fame Award, and the Kansas City Volunteer of the Month Award.

On January 28, 2016, I was awarded a Presidential Citation by President Barack Obama for a "Lifetime Achievement Award" having volunteered over 10,000 hours to organizations in the Kansas City area.

My first wife, Charlene Horowitz Gelb, preceded me in death after forty years of marriage, and presented me with four daughters, Robin Bateman (Jim), Janis Robbins, Marcia Bernstein (Larry of blessed memory), and Barbara Novorr (Jeff), six grandchildren (David Bernstein, Matthew Robbins, Curtis Robbins, Ben Novorr, Celia Bateman, Jon Novorr), and two great-grandchildren (Eli and Jack Bernstein). The meals we had together, the conversations at the Sunday breakfast table, and the vacations, as few as they might have been, are what memories are made of. The girls brought me numerous hours of care and love in times of sickness and hospitalization. May God bless them all.

My second wife, Evelyn Crocket Gelb, also preceded me in death after twenty years of marriage. Evelyn had three children, Debbie Kilgore (Greg), Nancy Rezabek, and David Peters (deceased), and two grandchildren. The trips Ev and I took to Estes Park, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon made a marriage for two elderly people special.

I'm also preceded in death by my brother Mike, and survived by my sister-in-law, Ruth Gelb, and many loving nieces and nephews.

My funeral service will be held at the KI Blue Ridge chapel on Friday, June 10 at 11:30am

with burial at Kehilath Israel Blue Ridge Cemetery.

Contributions in remembrance may be made to Restart Inc. or a charity of one's choice.

Yes, as the saying goes, "Life is a journey..." and I've had a memorable journey. Good friends, meaningful spiritual guidance, and extra love and caring from my family throughout the bitter times in my life. I believe you all made my life a sweet one. Thank you!

With much love for all of you who played a part in my journey,

Larry

# Cemetery Details

## Kehilath Israel Blue Ridge Cemetery

1901 S. Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Independence, MO

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUN **10**. 11:30 AM (CT)

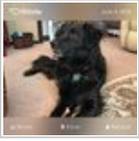
Kehilath Israel Blue Ridge Cemetery Chapel  
1901 S. Blue Ridge Blvd.  
Independence, MO

## Zoom

JUN **10**. 11:30 AM.

Please email [zoom1@louismemorial.com](mailto:zoom1@louismemorial.com) for zoom ID and Passcode

# Tribute Wall



“ I had the honor to know Larry as the self-appointed Volunteer Coordinator at Menorah Medical Center in 2018 and 2019. Larry was so very special - always showed up and loved what he did. He was also so very keen on letting me know what needed to be fixed, replaced, changed, etc. I loved it and I loved him. He did have a wonderful journey, may God continue to bless you, his family with peace and comfort.  
Teri Mapes

Teri Mapes - July 14 at 05:27 PM

ME

“ Forever in my heart ❤️ 😞

mesha - June 27 at 11:03 PM

MG

“ Marcia, We are so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear father. I know you did a lot for and with him the last few years, as you loved him and helped to make him as comfortable as you could. Daddies and daughters have a special rank in families; I know how hard it is to lose one and offer our sympathies for your loss.  
Margaret and Larry Goldstein

Margaret Goldstein - June 21 at 05:19 PM

RT

“ Larry was always a positive, warm, and caring person whenever our paths crossed. I only have good memories of him! Sorry for your loss, may your memories be blessings.

Rivka Taylor - June 18 at 01:38 PM

ME

“ Hey, it's me again I can't help but to NOT think of you 😞 I feel very honored and privileged to have given my care and love to someone in the final chapter of their novel of life. I'm truly honored to know Larry ❤️ may his legacy live forever!!

Mesha - June 13 at 06:04 PM

JK

“ Gelb Family:

*What a wonderful man. So devoted to Jewish life no matter what congregation it was in.*

*Sherrie & Jerry Kaplan*

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**Jerome Kaplan** - June 13 at 04:01 PM

JH

“ *This is such a lovely obituary & I feel like I learned so much about his amazing life. I was blessed to know Larry & Ev through Kol Ami. His dedication was so impactful.*

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**Julie Hirsch-Bohs** - June 10 at 12:27 PM

ML

“ *Daddy Gelb's daughters,  
I am so sorry for your loss and offer my condolences.  
I remember many Sunday mornings waking up at your house to be greeted by always smiling Daddy Gelb.  
Always a sweet man to me.....  
Marcee ( Jacobsen ) Levin*

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**Marcee Levin** - June 10 at 10:19 AM

ME

“ *Mesha lit a candle in memory of Lawrence "Larry" Gelb*



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**Mesha** - June 09 at 09:48 PM

ME

“ *I am so sorry for the Gelb's daughters loss, Larry was more than a client of mine he was like family! And so was the daughters I am so sad that I had 10 months with him and not more :( but with in the time of knowing him he has been nothing but GREAT to me. I will never forget you Larry, forever in my heart.  
-mesha*

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**Mesha** - June 09 at 09:47 PM

LB

“ Leah and I have had a 40 year friendship with Larry and some close family members. More than just a tremendously gracious macher, the "President" was a spirited mentor to both of us in multiple Temple Administration positions. We would ALWAYS look forward to his personalized Birthday card he would send annually, even through the covid years. Sending our sincerest condolences to family.

*Leah and Lenny Bassin*

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**Lenny and Leah Bassin** - June 09 at 03:56 PM

BA

“ Larry was one of a kind! While he lived a good long life, it's hard to say goodbye. As I was searching for a photo for a different project today, I found these two photos from September 1989, taken in Tucson. They bring back sweet memories of your parent's great friendship with Sidney and Martha, and of course, your wonderful mom and dad. Sending love and our deepest condolences. Bev Agron and family



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**Bev Agron** - June 09 at 12:39 AM

SB

“ Dear Gelb Girls,  
We were sorry to hear that your dad has passed away. Even though he lived a good, long life it is never easy to lose your parent.

*We all have special memories of "Uncle Larry and Aunt Charlene." We think of them that way because that is what the people around us always called them. Your dad always reminded us of our own dad. Ours, like yours always tried to serve G-d and be an example of faith to those they met in their daily lives. That is a very special legacy to those left behind.*

*We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers as you mourn you dad,  
Joan Leuty, Donna Breshears and Sharon Breshears (The Bob Jones girls)*

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**Sharon Breshears** - June 08 at 10:23 PM

CL

“ Gelb Family,

*We were privileged to meet Larry (and Ev) when we joined Kol Ami in 2004. We thoroughly enjoyed the friendship that was made and I worked on committees with Larry. We had a tremendous amount of respect for him and spent hours inside and outside of Kol Ami and Temple Sinai with him. May your wonderful memories help comfort you.*

*Carla and Mickey Lieberman*

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**Carla Lieberman** - June 08 at 07:48 PM

TC

“ So sorry to hear of your loss, Barb. We know that you were a very devoted daughter.

*Teri and Steve Cohn*

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**Teri Cohn** - June 08 at 07:20 PM

JT

“ What a lovely final letter from a beautiful amazing man! My deepest condolences to my dear friend Barb and to the rest of those who love him.

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**Julee Travis** - June 08 at 06:03 PM

RD

“ So many fond memories of Larry as we worked together at the Jewish Community Center. Then, for many years he did all the printing for our law firm. A pleasure to be in his company. Always a smile and kind word. My condolences to the Gelb family.

*Bob DeWitt*

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**Robert & Kathy DeWitt** - June 08 at 05:39 PM

KF

*I adored Larry Gelb. My memories of him go back to my childhood when he and Charlene were in a bowling league (I believe through B'nai B'rith) with my parents, Nadine and Howard Agron. Larry and I served on the original Kol Ami board together, worked on countless committees together, helped build the fledgling new congregations up to 150 families and raised enough fund to purchase our own building at 75th and Nall. I grieved over the loss of the original Kol Ami family which was so very loving and supportive of each other. It was my honor to serve as Membership Chair and Marketing Chair while Larry served as President. He was ONE OF A KIND and I will hold memories of him tightly in my heart for the rest of my life.*

*Karen Agron Flattery*

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**Karen Agron Flattery** - June 09 at 02:23 PM

SS

“ We were fortunate to know and work with Larry in many temple and CASA capacities over the years. He was always so kind, gracious, energetic, determined and devoted to whatever he addressed. He was a warm and thoughtful gentleman.

May his memory be a blessing,

Stevie and Johnny Shuchart

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**Stevie Shuchart** - June 08 at 05:28 PM

JG

“ I was so sorry to hear of Larry's passing. He was always a kind man and a great gentleman. My thoughts are with his daughters and hope they find solace in knowing how many people Larry impacted in a very good way.

Josh Garry

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**Joshua Garry** - June 08 at 03:44 PM

AH

“ Robin, Never met your father but you were a loving friend to my brother Barry. My condolences to you and your family. Wonderful obituary.  
Annette Goldenberg Haynes

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**Annette Goldenberg Haynes** - June 08 at 01:29 PM

JF

“ Only knew this tall, charming & friendly guy from 1970s bowling league. Great obit! Best ever! Left countless precious memories for those who he was close to I suppose. Wear them for a blessing.

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**Jeff Friedman** - June 08 at 12:57 PM

WF

“ Walter J And Sharon Fink lit a candle in memory of  
Lawrence "Larry" Gelb



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**Walter J and Sharon Fink** - June 08 at 12:43 PM