



Paul Lewis Lerner

May 25, 1955 - July 5, 2014

Paul Lewis Lerner, of Overland Park, passed away peacefully, after an extended illness, on July 5, 2014, at the age of 59.

Paul is remembered fondly by his mother, Rosie Lerner; brothers and sisters-in-law Michael Lerner and Audrey Asher and Bruce and Devra Lerner; nephews and nieces Zack Lerner and fiancée Krista Roquette, David Lerner, and Nate and Genevieve Asher; and by his numerous cousins, extended family, and dear friends.

The son of Rosie and the late Morris Lerner, Paul was born May 25, 1955, in Kansas City, Mo. He graduated from Shawnee Mission East High School, and received a B.A. in Art History from Northwestern University, where he was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Following graduation, Paul worked at Sotheby's in London and the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., before moving to New York City, where a series of jobs at private art galleries led to a position as director of communications for Jacques Jugeat, the American distributor for the noted French glassware-maker Lalique. Fluent in spoken and written French, Paul divided time between Paris and New York until returning home to the Kansas City area in 1995, where he served as director of advertising for Annieglass, director of sales for Lynn Chase Designs, and development director of the American Jazz Museum, before launching his own nonprofit consultancy. Through Paul Lerner and Associates, he coordinated fundraising events and development campaigns for numerous major nonprofits in Kansas City and beyond.

Throughout his life, Paul maintained a love for beautiful things and art in all its forms. He had a great eye for visual aesthetics, and was a talented writer, singer, and pianist. However, his greatest skill set was as an organizer, advisor, and connector. As well as he could see the beauty in any work of art, he could see the potential in a room, in an organization, and in everyone he met. He knew “everybody who was anybody”—and many more who weren't; though he counted David Rockefeller, Ron Lauder, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Suzanne Lalique among his professional and personal contacts, he treated each friend and associate as a VIP.

Through his networks—from business and political leaders to Jazz singers to professional athletes—Paul's mission was to find resources and match them with individuals and

organizations in need. He had an uncanny ability to get distinguished people to act with him in service of the causes he championed. His embodiment of *chesed*, the Jewish concept of delivering kindness where it is most needed, extended to institutions such as the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, the American Jazz Museum, a string of Kansas City charter schools, and the Conservatory of Music and Dance at UMKC, where he also served as a trustee.

Paul's strongest commitment was always to his family. He was his mother's youngest child and, particularly in later years, her best friend (and roommate), accompanying her to events, appointments, and family gatherings. He stood ready to deploy his acumen and contacts to help his loved ones, whether to assist a brother in business ventures or to coordinate efforts for the care of a debilitated aunt. And a visit to his old stomping grounds in New York never passed without his treating a nephew or younger cousin to dinner and a Broadway show.

He was always available to family, friends, and colleagues for advice, support, and encouragement, and will be remembered and cherished for his love, humor, intelligence, and generosity. Anyone who wanted to laugh knew to seek out Paul, who was both proud and punctilious in his role as a world-class schmoozer; he had a story about everyone, but rarely if ever spoke ill of anyone. He was dearly loved and will be terribly missed by many, but will live on in their hearts and memories, and through the good acts of those who follow the example set by his life of service.

A funeral service in memory of Paul will be held on Monday, July 7, at 2 p.m., at Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri. Interment will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery. Contributions in memory of Paul may be made to the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, the UMKC Conservatory, Congregation Beth Shalom, or the charitable organization of your choice.

Events

JUL **Service** 02:00PM

7

Louis Memorial Chapel
6830 Troost Ave, Kansas City, MO, US, 64131

JUL **Shiva** 07:00PM

7

at the home of Bruce and Devra Lerner. Please contact the funeral home for additional information.
KS, US

JUL **Shiva** 07:00PM

8

at the home of Bruce and Devra Lerner. Please contact the funeral home for additional information.
KS, US

JUL **Shiva** 07:00PM

9

at the home of Bruce and Devra Lerner. Please contact the funeral home for additional information.
KS, US

JUL **Shiva** 07:00PM

10

Town Villiage, 4400 W. 115th St, Leawood, KS 66211. Approach from the south on Roe or on College.
KS, US

Comments



“ I am shaken by the news of Paul's passing. He was such a warm person -always a nice word. He spoke in compliments, telling truths in a gentle way that it surprised me. I remember his smile.

Cheryl Intrater

Cheryl Intrater - July 14, 2014 at 10:50 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Paul and I shared several classes together many years ago at Shawnee Mission East High School. I still remember him as such a special person and such a beautiful soul.

May the Omnipresent console you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Diane Wolkow Schaefer
Jerusalem

Diane Schaefer - July 14, 2014 at 03:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Paul



SLD - July 11, 2014 at 06:47 PM



“ I extend my condolences to Paul's friends and family. I attended high school with Paul although I was in another class. I have very fond memories of Paul playing the role of Sir Joseph Porter in Shawnee Mission East's 1972 production of "HMS Pinnafore", (see photo in Photos & Videos section and, yes, I'm that nerdy that I still have the program.)

Thank you also to whoever wrote Paul's obituary. It's a very lovely tribute to a lovely man. Best regards, SL Dickey

SLD - July 11, 2014 at 06:45 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I will always remember Paul as a fun and loving person. Loved working with him at Beth Shalom and assisting him with his events in the community! My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Lerner family at this very sad time!

Rochelle Barash - July 09, 2014 at 10:53 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working with Paul on multiple events for both B'nai Jehudah and Village Shalom. We had a running joke about my editing of his edits of my edits. He had an incredibly warm personality and welcoming demeanor. I feel enriched to have known him.

karen glickstein - July 07, 2014 at 07:55 PM



“ I am so sorry for your loss Rosie. Your boy always made others feel wonderful and welcomed. What a lovely gift among many that he had during his life.

janet zwillenberg

janet zwillenberg - July 07, 2014 at 06:47 PM



“ Paul will be fondly remembered as one who contributed significantly to the arts and culture of the Kansas City community. We send his family our heartfelt condolences for his untimely passing.

Anita and Gary Robb

Anita Robb - July 07, 2014 at 02:12 PM



“ Paul brightened the world with his humor, compassion, kindness, and intelligence. As he went about his life, Paul made the small part of the world that he touched a better place to live in.

May Paul 's memory always be a blessing to those who knew and loved him...

Cindy Wasserman Kolkin - July 07, 2014 at 07:37 PM



“ Joe and I were saddened to hear about Paul's passing. May his memory be for a blessing.

Netta and Joe Krashin.

netta krashin - July 07, 2014 at 01:40 PM



“ As President of the Friends of the Conservatory, Paul helped guide UMKC's Conservatory to a better place. While we are saddened by his loss, we are truly grateful that he cared for Kansas City, and her community of artists and educators.

Peter Witte - July 07, 2014 at 12:29 PM



“ Words cannot express my sadness at hearing this news. Paul was a wonderful person and friend to many. Blessings to you all.

Susan Melton - July 07, 2014 at 12:10 PM



“ Paul was a treasure that all who knew him will feel t his loss and his humor. I send my best to you Rosie and family, much love Carol Weissman

Carol Weissman - July 07, 2014 at 11:52 AM



“ My heartfelt sympathy to the Lerner family at the loss of Paul. I still remember him as a young boy singing with his sweet voice with Cantor Rothblatt. He was a dear man, and I, for one, will miss his happy demeanor and cheerful smile.

Merna Siegler

Merna Siegler - July 07, 2014 at 11:10 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Paul



Victor Wishna - July 07, 2014 at 09:57 AM



“ Paul and I became friends at Northwestern University. He was fun to be with and he was a good friend. So sorry he is gone.

Barbara Winslow Boardman - August 11, 2014 at 07:53 PM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Victor Wishna - July 07, 2014 at 09:56 AM



“ What a beautiful tribute to my friend Paul Lerner. I was lucky enough to be one of those people he helped get connected and I treasure the years he led the Philanthropy Awards Luncheon for Nonprofit Connect. He helped take it to the next level. My heart is sad that someone so dear was taken far too early! Peace to Paul's family and dear mother Rosie who I had the pleasure of meeting several times when she was out with him.

Michelle Davis-Wingate - July 07, 2014 at 09:46 AM



“ Paul was such a sweetheart - always a big smile and hug when I would see him. May you rest in peace my friend.

Kathryn McDaniel - July 07, 2014 at 08:53 AM



“ We were so sorry to read of the passing of Paul. What a delightful, friendly man who always had a smile on his face.
He will be sadly missed by friends and family
marlene and stan katz

marlene katz - July 07, 2014 at 08:34 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear this. I remember his smiles and hugs and infectious laugh. Kansas City has lost a true treasure. Unfortunately I am working out of town and cannot be at the service. May his memory always be a blessing.

Lisa Lerner Siegel - July 06, 2014 at 10:06 PM



“ Mike and Family: I am sorry for your loss of Paul. He was such a worldly man who made a difference in many people's lives.

Ron Meyers

Ron Meyers - July 06, 2014 at 09:14 PM



“ I am so saddened by this news. It seems like only yesterday that we were all going to hebrew school together. All memories of Paul and his love for life will always be cherished.

shelly nemeth(sanders) - July 06, 2014 at 08:51 PM



“ I'm so very sorry to learn of Paul's passing. He was always a warm, friendly smile in the crowd - and we always hugged as if no time had passed since the last time we saw one another. He will be deeply missed by all.

Betsy Bodker - July 06, 2014 at 08:37 PM



“ So saddened to hear of Paul's passing. We remember him from the time he was a toddler visiting his uncle and aunt, Phil and Libby Shankman, who lived across the hall from us at the old mecca of suburban Jewish living, President Gardens. We followed Paul's successes and appreciated his leadership which benefitted so many of our community's organizations. Our condolences to Rosie and all of his family and friends.

Felicia & Seymour Weiner - July 06, 2014 at 08:17 PM



“ Dear Rosie and Family, Stan and I are so saddened to learn of Paul's passing. We had the pleasure of working with him for an annual Hebrew Academy Civic Service Award Event. He was so knowledgeable and capable. He will surely be missed. May his memory always be a blessing to all who knew him.
Most sincerely,
Joyce Zeldin

Joyce Zeldin - July 06, 2014 at 08:00 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Rosie and her family on the loss of her beloved son, Paul. His warm greetings to all will be missed.

Harryette & Ron Cooperman

Harryette Cooperman - July 06, 2014 at 07:01 PM



“ Paul's passing is heartbreaking. There aren't adequate words to express the magnitude of this loss. My love to Rosie and the whole family and to the many, many friends who mourn Paul's loss.

Paula Sanders - July 06, 2014 at 05:58 PM



“ Paul was one of the nicest people i have ever known. I join all in sadness and grief for the loss of this wonderful person.

Trudy Jacobson - July 07, 2014 at 12:45 PM



“ My heart goes out to the Family on this terrible loss, and not just you, but to the whole Jewish community. Paul was an asset, a jewel to this community. You are in my prayers. Rosie you had a wonderful son!

Norman Levitan

Norman Levitan - July 06, 2014 at 05:37 PM



“ I am so saddened to hear of Paul's passing. He was always a joy to be around and full of life and love for everyone. It was a blessing to hear him sing or to play the piano...he was so talented. My memories go way back to hebrew school, high school, and seeing him when I came back to KC. He was a special, unique human being and his presence will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to all his friends and family.

Susie Wedlan - July 06, 2014 at 05:21 PM



“ During the time I was raising money for my grandson's disorder, Paul was there to donate a beautiful art piece to be auctioned. He was always generous and a lovely man. I am so sorry he is no longer with us.

janet Price - July 06, 2014 at 05:14 PM



“ we are in los angeles right now and were shocked to see this sad event. We will not be back in Kansas City in time for the funeral. He was a fabulous person and always had a smile and a hug = we will miss him!
Love - Sandi and Kenny

Sandi and Keny Lerner - July 06, 2014 at 04:19 PM



“ We so enjoyed Paul's company on many occasions at town village. He was a dinner companion to his darling mother, Rosie, and to many of us who enjoyed his company at meals there. His friendship will be missed by many.
Marie Koffman and Sara Mittelman

marie koffman - July 06, 2014 at 04:09 PM



“ Thinking of you all during this time of great sadnes.....

Elisa & Jim Pene - July 06, 2014 at 04:01 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Paul. Will remember our many conversations with a smile. May his memory be a blessing always! Debra Goldstein and Family

Debra R. Goldstein - July 06, 2014 at 03:25 PM



“ So sorry to hear.
Rita Shapiro

Rita Shapiro - July 06, 2014 at 03:05 PM



“ So sad to learn of Paul's death--such a mensch. Too young. May his memory be a blessing. Francie Bernstein Kelly

francie Bernstein Kelly - July 06, 2014 at 03:49 PM



“ Paul was one of my first fiends when I moved to KC. He was a good friend and a great supporter of HBHA. He had a generous spirit. In Israel and so sad to hear of his passing. Howard Haas

Howard Haas - July 07, 2014 at 11:26 AM



“ I first knew Paul from Beth Shalom Hebrew School. Then he went to college at Northwestern in 1973, the same year I did. We both lived in the Willard dorm our freshman and sophomore years, on the same floor. I have a photo of him from an occasion when several of us went into Chicago to party one Saturday night---it stands out in mind. I loved spending time with Paul. He was very fun, funny and warm. I was devastated to learn of his passing, which apparently happened over a year ago. May he rest in peace and know he was loved!

Susie Price Flappan - September 22, 2015 at 11:11 AM