



Aaron Rubinstein

February 28, 1928 - July 20, 2021

Aaron Rubinstein, 93, Holocaust survivor, peacefully took his last breath at 11:55 am on Tuesday, July 20th with his family surrounding him in love.

Aaron began his life in Sokolov Podlaski, Poland on February 28, 1928. He was the youngest son of Benyamin and Hiah (Tyk) Rubinstein and the youngest of five children. His and his family's whole world was uprooted in 1939 with the invasion of Germany. Aaron's parents, his siblings, Rivke, Shlomo, Yosef, and Lea escaped to Siberia via cattle cars.

In Siberia, life was exceedingly difficult, and Aaron was taken to an orphanage by his sister Rivke so he could have food to eat. The Polish government, the Jewish Agency, and the American Red Cross worked together to take these orphans to Tehran. Aaron's family was not aware of these plans, and his sister, Rivke, came to visit him one day to find that the orphans had started their migration to Persia via Karachi, Uzbekistan, India, and the Sinai Desert. The Tehran Children arrived in August 1943 where they lived in tents and Aaron contracted malaria.

After eight months, Aaron was able to immigrate to Palestine, specifically Ein Harod, a kibbutz where he had a room with two other boys. Aaron worked in the fields and was able to catch up the years of schooling that he missed.

Aaron joined the Israeli Army in 1946 and fought for the country's independence in 1948. In 1949, while driving for the army, his vehicle ran over a mine, and he was injured. Rehabilitation involved working on jewelry to regain his fine motor skills. He always loved art and jewelry and sculpture fed his passion.

Aaron met Rachel while she was in the Israeli army and both felt education was a priority. Aaron went to college to study Bible at Hebrew University, and the Teacher's College, and later an Administrative Degree. Rachel also went to the Teacher's College and they started their teaching careers in Ashkelon, Israel. Aaron became the principal of a school and together they taught thousands of immigrant children.

Aaron and Rachel were always looking for adventure together and better opportunities and became exchange teachers with the United States. In 1960, with Hillel, their son, arrived in Chicago for a one-year teacher contract. Aaron took the opportunity to study art and sculpture at the Chicago Art Institute which he loved. They returned to Israel where Haguit, their daughter was born and in 1964 received a visa to return to the US. This time to Minneapolis where Aaron, 1965, received another master's degree at the Minneapolis Art Institute majoring in sculpture and minoring in metalsmithing. They returned to Israel in 1966.

The Rubinstein Family finally settled in Cincinnati in 1968, where Aaron and Rachel taught at Yavneh Day School. Aaron wanted a new challenge and started the art jewelry company, Modern Art Jewelry.

Rachel and Aaron worked side by side building Modern Art Jewelry where Aaron designed, cast, and fabrications beautiful works of modernist and contemporary sculptural jewelry. They traveled throughout the country selling to galleries, museums, and gift shops. Aaron's designs won national awards.

Aaron was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Rachel (Zwikelski), his parents, Benyamin and Hiah, his siblings, Rivke Steiner, Shlomo and Yosef Rubinstein, and Lea Raifman.

Aaron is survived by his son, Hillel (Ellen), his daughter, Haguit Rubinstein-Towler (Vance Towler), his grandchildren, Jennifer Rubinstein Pelzer (Jason), Sara Rubinstein Harrison (Garrett), Jared, Danielle, and Jordan Rubinstein-Towler, and Great-grandchildren, Victoria and Jacob Pelzer, and Colton and Calla Harrison, and loving companion, Esther Goldstein.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, July 21 at Weil Kahn Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45249, the family will begin receiving at 12:30 PM.

If you are unable to join in person, please join virtually via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88424030490?wd=S1gvS3hXdW9NNHBjRWs3UjRPZ1hiZz09>

Meeting ID: 884 2403 0490

Passcode: 924349

Shiva will be observed at Etz Chaim, Wednesday and Thursday, 7:00 PM, 8100 Cornell Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45249. In lieu of flowers, donations to Etz Chaim would be appreciated.

Cemetery Details

United Jewish Cemetery Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane
Montgomery, OH 45242

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JUL 21. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Tribute Wall

TS

“ I am so sorry to read of Aaron's passing. What a dear man. I first knew of him when I was in high school and saw his art works at Summerfair. Since then I have followed his work and own several pieces - including a commissioned pendant that I treasure. What a life he lived and what a treasured legacy he leaves. May his memory be a blessing. Terri Behle Sinoway

Terri Sinoway - September 19, 2021 at 05:15 PM

HR

Thank you so much for your kind words, Terri.

Haguit Rubinstein - September 09, 2025 at 05:22 PM

CM

“ Haguit, I am so sorry to hear of Aaron's passing. He was a sweet man and one of a kind. Jeff & I send you our love & prayers. It won't be the same at Summerfair without him
I am sending you a big hug. I'm praying God brings you comfort during this difficult time. Love, Colette & Jeff Martin

Colette Martin - August 23, 2021 at 06:35 PM

CM

“ Haguit, I was so sorry to hear of Aaron's passing. Your dad was one of a kind and I grew to love him. I enjoyed seeing you both at Summerfair each year. It won't be the same. Jeff and I send our love and much prayers for you and the family. I pray God sees you through this difficult time. Love, Colette & Jeff Martin

Colette Martin - August 23, 2021 at 06:20 PM

HR

You know Aaron loved you both and your dedication to Summerfair and the arts. Thank you.

Haguit Rubinstein - September 09, 2025 at 05:20 PM

DY

“ *Haguit and family, Howard and I send our sympathies at the loss of your father, a true gentleman - and one who seemed to love life in spite of all he had been through.*



Diane Yasgur - July 27, 2021 at 04:57 PM

HR

Thank you, Diane and Howard.

Haguit Rubinstein-Towler - July 31, 2021 at 09:42 AM



“ *So sorry about the passing of Aaron. May he be at peace. His beautiful jewelry was a blessing and brought others joy. Our thoughts and prayers are with Haguit and her family.*

Pamela Hill - July 24, 2021 at 10:37 AM

HR

Thank you, Pam.

Haguit Rubinstein-Towler - July 31, 2021 at 09:42 AM

HH

“ We have been friends with Aaron and family I for many years. We will miss him greatly. Whenever we came to Cincinnati from Florida we would always visit Aaron. The world lost a great artist.

We will say Kadish for him.

Our deepest condolences to the family.

Ed and Halina Herman

Halina and Ed Herman - July 23, 2021 at 05:44 PM

HR

Ed and Halina, thank you for your friendship and condolences,

Haguit Rubinstein-Towler - July 31, 2021 at 09:41 AM

EH

“ I wear his beautiful, artful hamsa everyday.

Elaine Hordes - July 23, 2021 at 07:38 AM

MA

“ A true gentleman and friend. It was a pleasure to work with him over the years. I am amazed after reading his life story..sad we don't know these stories untill someone has left. Prayers. Mark Vanover

MarkVanover - July 21, 2021 at 09:27 PM

RF

“ *Mr Rubinstein was a mensch. On occasion, I would bring in a piece of Judaica that required repair, and NEVER would he charge me for his services. A kind soul who left a great mark on this world. May his memory be for a blessing.*

Rob Festenstein

Rob Festenstein - July 21, 2021 at 03:21 PM

SM

“ *I am glad our families have known each other. I will miss him.*

Sarah Miller - July 21, 2021 at 02:01 PM

JH

“ *Aaron was our next door neighbor for 20 years. We enjoyed his humor and conversations over the years. A man of many talents! We will miss you.*

The Huesman's

Jeanette Huesman - July 21, 2021 at 12:48 PM

LR

“ *Hillel and family. Although we cannot be with you in person please know we are thinking about you and sending our love Louise and Doug*

louise Rutman - July 21, 2021 at 12:30 PM

HR

Thank you Louise & Doug, you are as close as family to Ellen & myself. We love you!

Hillel Rubinstein - July 25, 2021 at 09:59 PM



“ I only knew Aaron as a warm and friendly man with an incredible eye for jewelry design. I shall wear a piece of his jewelry today in memory of a talented man who survived so much. Condolences to the family.

Jerri Roberts

Jerri Roberts - July 21, 2021 at 10:19 AM

DD

“ Dear Hagit and family,
I am so sorry for your loss. Reading Aaron's obituary was very moving.

Debbie

Debbie Dreyfus - July 21, 2021 at 09:42 AM

DS

“ I remember and cherish the days in the '60's when Aaron, Rachel and the kids would come to Brooklyn for Passover Seders. He drove a large station wagon from Ohio. It was always a happy holiday for the Rubenstein/Steiner clan. You stayed over and we got to know you all quite well. His sister Rivkah was a great cook and we were happy to be together with you all.



Danny, Lita and Andrew Steiner - July 21, 2021 at 08:50 AM



“ Our prayers go out to Aaron's family. When my husband and I were about to be married, we went to Modern Art Jewelry for our wedding rings. Aaron had made my beautiful opal engagement ring and we needed a band that would fit with that piece of art. We talked a little about what we were looking for/thinking about. Then Aaron said, "Come, we will make a memory." He led us back into his studio. It was like being in a sacred place. He cut a strip from a sheet of gold and fashioned my wedding band before our astonished eyes. The final step was the hand-hammered finish and at the age of 85, Aaron did that part himself, in his own inimitable style. That day, watching his creative process, his passion and his artistry, remains one of my most cherished memories.

Cindy LaFreniere and Scott Schweiger

Cindy LaFreniere - July 20, 2021 at 10:55 PM

CD

“ I remember when Aaron came to our house and needed a block of gold cut in half. He handed it to my dad and my dad took it to work and cut it in half. They were fast friends. I miss them both. Connie

Connie Davidson - July 20, 2021 at 09:43 PM

JW

“ I always enjoyed seeing Aaron at Summerfair at Coney Island. It won't be the same without him.

Marilyn and Jim Weber

James Weber - July 20, 2021 at 09:17 PM

PS

“ I met Mr. and Mrs. Rubenstein many years ago at the Atlanta Market Center. They were in my section of the trade show and I found them to be most charming. They were so endearing and absolutely adorable. I loved their beautiful and unique pieces. As a surprise, my husband purchased a piece that I had admired and continue to cherish. I have thought of them often and have followed on Facebook the progress of the company. Please know that you have my condolences. I will continue to remember them both when I wear my beautiful necklace.

Pamela Stubbs - July 20, 2021 at 05:46 PM