



Jeffrey Ganson Elkus

October 25, 1983 - June 11, 2023

JEFFREY GANSON ELKUS

Jeffrey Ganson Elkus, age 39, passed away June 11, 2023, beloved son of Steve and Nancy Elkus, dear brother of Bradley (Sarah) Elkus, and devoted uncle of Noah Elkus. He is also survived by many loving aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Services were held at Weil Kahn Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 13.

Jeff was a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Sycamore High School and a member of the National Honor Society. As the PA Announcer for Varsity Basketball, and Sideline Reporter for Varsity Football, Jeff was known as the "Voice of the Aviators". He was inducted into the Sycamore High School Athletic Hall of Fame as the Spirit of Sycamore Award winner.

He graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Electronic Media from the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. He was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and Golden Key Honor Society.

Jeff worked at the University of Cincinnati's Sports Information Department handling media communications for Bearcats Football and Women's Basketball. Throughout college, he was a freelance sports reporter for various

Cincinnati suburban newspapers and a staff reporter for The News Record, the UC student-run newspaper. Additionally, he was a production engineer and a sales representative for Bearcast, the student-run internet radio station. Jeff was the on-air talent providing commentary during UC Baseball home games. As a Production Intern at Clear Channel Radio Jeff earned a Radio Marketing Professional certification from the Radio Advertising Bureau.

Upon graduation, Jeff joined the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati as Editor of David's Voice, the Jewish Young Adult Website. He then joined the Mayerson JCC, where he held and excelled in various positions for almost 14 years.

Though Jeff's sports passion was the Cincinnati Reds, he was a devoted fan of the Bengals, Bearcats, and all Cincinnati teams. Jeff loved to travel and had the opportunity to visit Israel, Paris, and London. He traveled extensively throughout the U.S., including a memorable trip to snow ski in Utah. However, most of Jeff's vacations were attending professional sporting events, including baseball games at 18 of 30 MLB ballparks.

Jeff had a deep commitment to Judaism and loved his studies, especially the discussions and debates. He was a graduate of Melton School of Jewish Learning. He was recognized for Outstanding Achievement in Jewish Studies and was honored by the AJC Cincinnati Chapter. He was an AJC representative at the Global Forum in Washington, D.C., and served on their Simon Lazarus Awards Committee. He also was the recipient of the Chabad Friendship Circle award.

Jeff was diagnosed at age 5 with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a debilitating disease characterized by progressive muscle deterioration and weakness. 39 years is twice the expected life span of a DMD patient and with the support of his family and friends he lived a rich life, albeit with constant effort and challenges. At age 9, Jeff was the first participant in a U.S. clinical

trial for a steroid that would slow DMD's progression. The study was subsequently conducted throughout the world; now newly diagnosed DMD patients are prescribed this medication. Because of Jeff's longevity, he was invited to represent the U.S. as a panelist at the International Neuromuscular Disease Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. Renowned physicians proclaimed that Jeff was a trailblazer and helped them learn how to treat DMD patients, both medically and spiritually.

Jeff strived to make the most of every day while battling his devastating illness. He enjoyed reading, writing, every music genre, and all performing arts. He had broad and diverse interests in each area. He relished being engaged in the community and inspired so many, young and old, with his positive attitude, courageous spirit, and genuine smile. Jeff exemplified the saying "If you can't stand up, stand out". May his memory be a blessing.

The service can be viewed at https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/embed_viewer/89241

Memorial contributions can be made to the Mayerson JCC, 8485 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236.

Cemetery Details

United Jewish Cemetery - Montgomery

7885 Ivygate Lane
Montgomery, OH 45242

Previous Events

Visitation Before Service

JUN 13. 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249
513-469-WEIL (9345)
info@weilkahnfuneralhome.com
<http://www.weilkahnfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

JUN 13. 1:45 PM - 2:15 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Tribute Wall



“ Weil Kahn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jeffrey Ganson Elkus



Weil Kahn Funeral Home - June 12, 2023 at 11:01 AM

SN

We are so very sorry to hear this about Jeff. We will always think of him with admiration, and gratitude for his beautiful light.

Sue and Jim Nuenke - June 12, 2023 at 09:48 PM

MW

My condolences for the loss of your son Jeff.

MARK WOLF - June 13, 2023 at 12:51 PM

LS

So sorry about your loss of dear Jeff who was the kindest young man we know. We will always remember his beautiful smile and always asking us how we were doing and my children. Huge loss for our whole community!!

Leah and Gary Smith - June 13, 2023 at 03:17 PM

EW

I remember being with Jeffery at Maple Dale many years ago - such a sweet kid. And I particularly remember a Mom who guided her son through all the difficulties of a devastating disease with much energy and grace.

*Nancy & Steve, my heart is with you both.
Ellen Wolfenberger*

Ellen Wolfenberger - June 13, 2023 at 09:08 PM

TB

I had Jeff in my 6th grade class. I will always remember his happy demeanor and smiling face. I will always be thankful to have been part of his life. I am lucky to have known him.

tracey bachmann - June 13, 2023 at 09:51 PM

ML

loved Jeff - always had a smile for everyone

mary luning - June 14, 2023 at 06:26 AM

DV

What If?

How many times do we find ourselves wishing "what if"? What if I were smarter, what if I were stronger, what if I were thinner, ...? It's only natural and we do it all the time. But Jeff was different. He embraced who he was and didn't tend to waste his energy go down the "what if" path. He truly liked all of himself and he spent all his energy on making the most of his realities. Now, as we mourn his passing, I believe he would ask us not to focus on what if he had not caught covid, but instead to relish in the memories of the life experiences we shared with him. He was one-of-a-kind and we all benefited from his part in our lives. Jeff, we will carry you with us for the rest of our days.

Debbie and Steve Vogel

Debbie and Steve Vogel - June 16, 2023 at 10:24 AM

MP

I did not know Jeff but sounds like I certainly would have liked this extraordinary young man. It is simply unexplainable when a child passes way too soon. My sincerest condolences to Nancy and Steve.

Michael Peck

Michael Peck - June 20, 2023 at 08:53 AM

JD

*So sorry for the loss of your son. I will keep the family in my prayers.
Jim Deller*

Jim Deller - June 21, 2023 at 06:02 PM

LR

Such a special soul, rip

Louis Rubenstein - June 27, 2023 at 07:07 PM

RB

“ *I just found out about Jeff and I want to send my condolences on behalf of my family. Whenever I had the chance to talk to Jeff it was such a special time. Jeff was an inspiring person with a positive attitude on life despite all of his medical issues. Rob Block*

Rob Block - August 12, 2023 at 07:34 PM

CL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Carolyn Lewis - June 23, 2023 at 10:15 PM

DH

“ *Debra Haning lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Elkus*



Debra Haning - June 22, 2023 at 08:31 AM

JG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Judy Gum - June 20, 2023 at 03:15 PM

BM

“ He always seemed to make a positive impact wherever he was.

Bob & Marcia - June 16, 2023 at 03:34 PM

CL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Lewis - June 16, 2023 at 01:00 PM

CL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Lewis - June 16, 2023 at 12:19 PM

CL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Lewis - June 16, 2023 at 10:19 AM

KF

“ Kathi Craig Fernandez lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Elkus



Kathi and Craig Fernandez - June 15, 2023 at 09:34 AM

CL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Lewis - June 14, 2023 at 07:02 PM

CL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn Lewis - June 14, 2023 at 06:38 PM

CC

“ My connection with Jeff was always through Reds baseball. We both had a great passion for the game and the team. We went to one of the best games in our recent history together, when Brandon Phillips hit a walk off HR against the Cardinals. I know he remembered that game like it was yesterday, the same way I do. We will all miss Jeff and his incredible spirit.

Chris Calo - June 14, 2023 at 09:28 AM

SK

“ Love and Prayers to the entire Elkus family. Jeff was one of the most inspirational young men I've ever encountered as an educator. Loved when he was on the mic for our Aviator games. God bless him and your family during this difficult time..

Stan Kaniecki - June 14, 2023 at 09:01 AM

JM

“ The Mulvey family is thinking of Jeff and your entire family. I think I saw Jeff angry once - and I think it was about baseball. Every time I was around Jeff he brought me great cheer! He was a true champion. We will miss him. - John, Nancy, Robby and Ricky

John Mulvey - June 13, 2023 at 06:53 PM

LF

“ Nancy, Steve and Family...
Such a beautiful service for an exceptional son and brother...
my heartfelt sympathy, may Jeffreys memory be for a blessing...

Linda Schottenstein Fisher

Linda Fisher - June 13, 2023 at 05:42 PM

NF

“ *Nicole Forbus lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Elkus*



Nicole Forbus - June 13, 2023 at 04:59 PM

NF

“ *To the Elkus family: I did not know Jeff personally, but I will always remember his kind greetings & goodbyes when he'd leave the J. Always upbeat. Always such a sweet man. My heart goes out to you all. May his memory forever be a blessing. Nicole Forbus*

Nicole Forbus - June 13, 2023 at 04:58 PM

AK

“ *We are thinking about the Elkus family during this difficult time. Jeff was a remarkable person and one of the nicest people we got the pleasure to know. He will be missed.*

Ali and Steve Kramer - June 13, 2023 at 02:26 PM

GS

“ *Jeff and I shared a memory of our trip to Israel. His dedicated mother and father and brother formed a great team that gave Jeff the best life He could have. We shared some special times in Israel where Jeff's magnetic personality made the Trip to Israel special and memorable*

Gary Smith - June 13, 2023 at 02:22 PM

BF

“ Jeff and your family have been a constant blessing to this community.

Bob Frohman - June 13, 2023 at 01:54 PM

EW

“ Jeff always had a smile and kind word and will be missed by so many. May his memory be an everlasting blessing

Elizabeth Woosley - June 13, 2023 at 01:49 PM

MG

“ Jenny and I are so sad to hear of Jeff's passing. As each Elkus/Gabovitch family event approached, the anticipation of spending time with Jeff always brought a smile to my face and each moment spent talking to Jeff was, without exception, interesting, entertaining, and uplifting. We all have learned so much from Jeff and his memory is truly a blessing to us all.

Michael and Jenny Gabovitch

Michael Gabovitch - June 13, 2023 at 01:47 PM

HZ

“ Jeff will be forever in our hearts. I will never forget the day Lauren came home and couldn't wait to tell me about her day at school (she was 5 or 6 years old), she met a knew friend, Jeffrey Elkus! She got to push him in his wheelchair down the hall. She was so very excited to know him. Who knew it would be a forever lasting friendship and love for him. Their bond was was like no other! Where ever was in the world, they would always find a way to connect with each other... You will be forever missed and loved Jeff.

The Ziegler Family

Heidi Ziegler - June 13, 2023 at 01:32 PM

BW

“ Jeff was a good friend growing up. He taught me that no matter what you might be struggling with, life can be great if you choose to let it be. I will cherish the memories I have with him and keep him in my heart. I pray the family finds strength in the difficult days ahead.

Brandon Williams - June 13, 2023 at 12:40 PM

SI

“ So many wonderful memories. I was supposed to be the teacher, and Jeff the student, but I learned so much more from Jeff than he did from me. He inspired me and all who knew him with his genuine love of life, his positive attitude, and his courage. I consider knowing Jeff and his family as one of the biggest blessings in my life. He will always be in my heart and my condolences go out to his family and all who knew him. Ya gotta believe!

Steve Imhoff - June 13, 2023 at 10:47 AM

SA

“ We are both so sorry to hear about Jeff. Always remember his smile and him talking sports with Darin. What an awesome person! Sending our thoughts and prayers to the whole family.

Susan & Darin Abrams

Susan & Darin Abrams - June 13, 2023 at 10:37 AM



BS

“ My condolences to the family. Remembering the nice visit and dinner I enjoyed with Jeff and his family in April. Memories are always a blessing.

Barb Scherrer - June 13, 2023 at 09:18 AM



“ הצטערנו מאוד על ג'פרי היקר. ג'פרי אדם מקסים, אופטימי, אוהב ואהוב. מחשבתנו וצערנו עם משפחת אלקוס המדהימים שליוו אותנו לאורך חייו והיו חלק משמעותי מאוד עבורו. בכל פעם שנפגשנו התרשמנו מאוד מהנתינה והקשר המיוחד ביניהם וכמובן מג'פרי, שתמיד חיך והשרה אירה אופטימית סביבו. למדנו מהם רבות ובמיוחד על משמעות החיים. יחסר לכולנו מאוד ראובן וורד וינטרוב

Vered Weintraub - June 13, 2023 at 06:42 AM

ZG

“ *Cousin Jeffrey was a light in this world. He was magnetic. Never let his disability get him down. Lived life to the fullest. We love you and are praying for you in this devastating time. May his memory be a blessing. Jeffrey was a true legend.*



Zvi Geffen - June 13, 2023 at 12:36 AM

CL

“ *I was Jeff's personal caregiver for about 16 years. It was pure joy taking care of him, and he was the best friend that I have ever had. He enriched the lives of so many...I am absolutely heartbroken that he is gone. My deepest condolences go out to the family.*

Carolyn Lewis



Carolyn Lewis - June 12, 2023 at 10:12 PM

MF

“ Jeff was always a positive force at the J. His smile and enthusiasm for the J and our community radiated around him. He always had a moment to talk to someone and always made everyone's day a little better. His love for the J was only matched by his love for all things Cincinnati sports. We will miss him at the J. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family.

Marc Fisher - June 12, 2023 at 07:52 PM

AM

“ I was fortunate enough to work with Jeff at the J for a while. Chatting and laughing with him about our favorite TV shows always brightened my day. He will be missed by so many. May his memory be a blessing.

Amanda - June 12, 2023 at 06:53 PM

MM

“ I worked many years with Jeff and consider a good friend who will be missed.

Mary Madgett - June 12, 2023 at 06:12 PM

EH

“ I loved working with Jeff at the J. He was always so friendly and sweet. May his memory be for a blessing.

Elaine Hordes - June 12, 2023 at 05:45 PM

LA

“ LOIS ASKIN lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Elkus



LOIS ASKIN - June 12, 2023 at 12:41 PM

SK

“ We are so sorry to hear about Jeff. He always had a smile on his face and was so kind and friendly. What a loss. Thinking of you. ❤️

Sue Henning Kirkpatrick - June 12, 2023 at 09:50 AM

LL

“ Liz Lowery lit a candle in memory of Jeffrey Elkus



Liz Lowery - June 12, 2023 at 09:23 AM

LL

Jeff was always so warm-hearted no matter what. His zest for life won't be forgotten, but will live on to all those lives he touched.

Liz Lowery - June 13, 2023 at 01:08 PM

RG

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, may his memory be a blessing ❤️ Renee and Richard Greenberg

Renee Greenberg - June 11, 2023 at 06:29 PM

MG

“ Jeff was an amazing person. My thoughts and prayers go out to the Elkus family. My your memories be a blessing

Mindi Greenberg-Rosen



Mindi Greenberg - June 11, 2023 at 05:48 PM

DW

Our deep sorrow, and our condolences to the family. Jeffrey was a warrior. He and his family, did the impossible. Together they proved, that miracles can happen. But they can't last.

Dana weintraub - June 12, 2023 at 11:54 AM



Jeff was a fixture at Ganson celebrations. Sending love from Boston from my folks Rabbi Don and Greta Lee Splansky and from me and my husband Karen Splansky Farbman & David Farbman. Condolences to the Ganson- Elkus family. HaMakom Yinachem Etchem B'toch sha'ar avlei Tzion v'Yerushalayim.

Karen Farbman - June 12, 2023 at 10:25 PM

FM

“ We are so very sorry to hear this about Jeff. His positive, upbeat attitude throughout his many years of affliction is an inspiration to everyone. He always had a smile and a welcoming greeting every time we saw him. Our lives are enriched for having known him. We will all miss him very much.

Fred and Robin Miller

Fred Miller - June 11, 2023 at 03:41 PM

RM

I am so sorry to hear about Jeff. Although I didn't see him that often I always enjoyed talking with him. His attitude was simply amazing. He was a role model on how to live life no matter the difficulties.

Ron Miller

Ron Miller - June 13, 2023 at 06:12 PM

JT

Dear Nancy & Steve,

I just read about your truly amazing son, Jeff. What an outstanding young man. You two can be very proud of him and of yourselves. Please accept my deepest sympathy.

Jack Thinnes

Jack Thinnes - June 20, 2023 at 07:10 PM

MF

As one of Jeff's professors at UC's Electronic Media Division, I was continually inspired by his courage, hard work and good cheer. I am happy to know he lived an adventuresome and productive post-college life. A most memorable young man.

*My condolences ,
Marjorie Fox*

marjorie fox - June 22, 2023 at 07:52 AM

MH

Although I never had Jeff as a student per se, I was part of the special services team at Sycamore Jr High. I vividly recall Jeff's zest for life, keen intellect and passion for sports and writing. As a teacher, I came to believe how students generally reflect their homes. Jeff certainly had many challenges in his life but his greatest blessing was his family and home where love and positivity reigned. Reading Jeff's obituary speaks to the full, wonderful life that he lead. If only it had been longer. Mary Lou Hoffar

Mary Lou Hoffar - June 22, 2023 at 08:23 PM

AS

Each post here reflects unique aspects of Jeff's personality; sports, music, spirituality, the importance of friends, family! I knew him through middle and high school He taught me a lesson too (literally), which helps me today. We were exploring the applications of technology to enhance school function (that immediately dates this story - how long ago). Once we realized that using word processing reduced the efforts of editing / revising a paper, we began keyboarding instruction for all students. Jeff immediately called me out for using a modified "Hunt and Peck" style. While I was trying to wriggle out with excuses, Jeff stopped me with "So?" Indeed, I started my Keyboarding practice together with him and still use it fairly well!

Jeff has left us with so many such warm memories! He will be missed and yet fondly remembered!

Asha - July 27, 2023 at 12:40 PM