



Marvin Harold Kraus

February 6, 1929 - February 15, 2025

KRAUS, Marvin Harold, age 96, passed away February 15, 2025, beloved husband of Geraldine “Gerry” Kraus, loving father of Rabbi Jonathan (Maia) Brumberg-Kraus, Christopher (Bari) Kraus, and Rabbi Matthew (the late Rabbi Sissy Coran) Kraus, dear grandfather of Zoya (Louis Haling) Brumberg-Kraus, Max (Allison Jones) Brumberg-Kraus, Emilee (Jake) Maxwell, Cohen Kraus, Jacob (Kim) Kraus-Preminger, Rabbi Shirah Kraus, Micah Kraus, and Eden Kraus, great-grandfather of 5, brother of the late Ruth (the late Robert Oestreicher and the late Charles Lowenthal) Oestreicher.

Marvelous Marvin, also known as “Sonny,” “Max,” Dad, Grandpa, Saba, and Uncle Marvin, lived a life that, he would say, achieved all the things he had hoped to do. Born in Lexington, KY to Max and Jenny (Levy) Kraus, first generation Americans from Crimea and Lithuania, Marvin moved with his family to North Avondale, Cincinnati, a neighborhood that became central to the rest of his life. He attributed his long life to “skiing in the winter and biking in the summer.”

Marvin was a lifelong learner who lived by Sursum ad Summum (“strive to the highest”), the motto of his beloved alma mater, Walnut Hills High School, where he was valedictorian in 1947. He joined 3 of his Jewish classmates at Harvard College, where he majored in Social Relations, and was the Equipment Manager of the Crimson football team. After college, he went to law school, and then was drafted into the army. He was stationed in Heidelberg, Germany for 2 years as a medic. He then joined the law firm of

Goldman, Cole and Putnick. He spent much of his career walking back and forth between his 4th street law office to the county courthouse or recorder's office representing hundreds of lifetime clients in their business and estate transactions. For Marvin, this work was not merely a job; he saw it as a vocation that enabled him to counsel people so they could make choices that would best bring peace and closure to their lives and families.

Family was very important to Marvin. He and Gerry created their own version of the TV show, "My Three Sons," providing their three sons, Jon, Chris and Matt with wonderful lives that included daily enrichment classes, clubs and Knothole baseball teams, Jewish education, and trips to Cape Cod, the Stratford Shakespeare theater and a memorable bike trip in the Loire Valley. Marvin insisted on being home with his family each night for dinner. Family dinner conversations were lively and meaningful, touching on integration, red-lining and local politics. (and the all too-frequent dad- joke, some off-color). He continued to show love and support for his eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Marvin, in partnership with Gerry, had a special relationship with the City of Cincinnati and North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA). He was the pro-bono legal counsel of NANA filing lawsuits against city zoning, housing and commercial development. He fought tirelessly against self-interested motives of economic development and on behalf of NANA to maintain a racially integrated, culturally and economically diverse, and beautiful neighborhood.

Most notable was Marvin's flare for wearing colorful socks, long before it was fashionable. The Cincinnati Enquirer did a style profile of Marvin and his socks in the 90's. A reporter noticed this man who always wore pink, yellow or bright green socks to court, instead of the dark conservative colors of the lawyer uniform. The inquisitive journalist asked why. Marvin said he wore them to brighten people's day, challenge norms, and put his adversaries on their toes because they didn't know what to expect from this man with a quirky style. 'Why should women be the only ones allowed to wear fun socks?' he

remarked with a twinkle in his eye.

Marvin's calling card read "Counselor and Attorney at Law." He was this in every respect. A classic listener, humanely interested in the people he met and shared life with, and a zealous advocate for doing the right thing, and doing the thing right.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, at 1:00PM with visitation beginning at 12:00PM at Weil Kahn Funeral Home, 8350 Cornell Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45249. Services will be LIVE STREAMED. Burial will follow at United Jewish Cemetery of Walnut Hills, 3400 Montgomery Road Cincinnati, Ohio 45207. Shiva will be observed on Tuesday and Wednesday night from 6:00-8:00PM with minyan beginning at 7:00PM at Rabbi Matthew Kraus' Residence.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to Walnut Hills High School, North Avondale Neighborhood Association (NANA), Rockdale Temple, or the charity of one's choice would be greatly appreciated.

Cemetery Details

United Jewish Cemetery Walnut Hills

3400 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, OH 45207

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 18. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Funeral Service

FEB 18. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Weil Kahn Funeral Home
8350 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, OH 45249

Tribute Wall



“ Weil Kahn Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Marvin Harold Kraus



Weil Kahn Funeral Home - February 17, 2025 at 08:37 AM

 Alana Levy

“ Sincere condolences from the Levy and Howley to Gerry, Rabbi Kraus, and all the other children and grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing to you and to everyone who knew him.



Alana Levy - February 23, 2025 at 01:08 PM

RC

“ My heartfelt condolences to Gerri and family.

Roz Chaiken

Rosalind Chaiken - February 19, 2025 at 01:14 PM

RY

“ Matt and family,
I am so sorry to read of your loss. You have my deepest condolences. While I did not know Marvin, he appears to have been a tremendous influence in the kindness and talent of you, and your family. May his memory be for a blessing for you all.
Rabbi Edie Yakutis

Rabbi Edie Yakutis - February 18, 2025 at 02:11 PM



“ Don't remember when it was, but Marvin and Geri, riding their bikes, visited us in Oxfordshire for lunch. They were en route to the Netherlands.

February 18, 2025 at 06:41 AM

KF

“ I have fond memories of Marvin at their home in North Avondale Cincinnati. He was a proud graduate of Walnut Hills High. I went to Walnut Hills High with Matthew. I think it was a Chatterbox meeting at his house where I met Marvin. It could have been a JCC club. Marvin was a proud dad. Sending condolences to all who mourn his loss. -Karen Splansky Farbman

Karen Farbman - February 17, 2025 at 07:02 PM

BG

“ Nancy and I wanted to give you and your family our sincerest condolences. We will be on our way driving to Florida. I always enjoyed chatting with your father, and he always made me smile as we compared who was wearing the wildest socks! We will be sure to live stream the funeral service. Know that our thoughts are with you and your whole family. Barry and Nancy Gibberman

Barry Gibberman - February 17, 2025 at 03:38 PM

MO

“ I have many from the past nearly 75 years but for now, let's sum them up: socks. 😎. Mike O

Mike O - February 17, 2025 at 01:57 PM

SS

Marvin was a fine lawyer and a caring person. He was quick with a critique but also a compliment when earned. He will be missed in the community. Sean Suder

sean suder - March 04, 2025 at 09:42 PM