



Rabbi Michael Joseph Cook, Ph.D.

January 15, 1942 - March 30, 2021

Rabbi Michael J. Cook, Ph.D., age 79, passed away on March 30, 2021, beloved husband of Rabbi Judy Chessin, devoted father of David (Helen) Cook, Ben (Iris Rosenstein) Cook, Maia Cook (Ted Crosson), Brett (Liora) Chessin and Chad Chessin, dear brother of Joel (Chris) Cook, loving grandfather of Sage, Isaac, Clara, and Jesse Cook, and Parker Chessin. The family will hold private graveside services. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (Cincinnati, OH) or Temple Beth Or (Dayton, OH).

Rabbi Cook was the Sol & Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (Cincinnati, OH) and the only rabbi in North America with a full-professorial chair in New Testament. He authored *Modern Jews Engage the New Testament*, a book intended to help Jews navigate a predominantly Christian culture and contribute to enhanced Judeo-Christian understanding.

His legacy will endure through the countless rabbinical and lay students he taught in his 45 years of instruction.

A shiva memorial service will be observed Monday, April 5 at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ To the Family of Rabbi Cook,
I had the honor and privilege of attending two seminars at HUC led by Rabbi Cook. I was a religious educator at St. Xavier HS who was starting a World Religions course in 2000. I cannot remember the title of the course, but the vivid memory is of a true teacher, not just a lecturer. He presented material in a thoughtful and reflective way. But for me it was the first time I listened to a Rabbi speak so passionately about the Christin Scriptures and explain the Jewish links, connections and foundations of the texts. He was a bridge builder as a teacher and as a scholar. Any chance I had I recommended his seminars to my colleagues and friends. Please know that your family are in my thoughts and prayers as you mourn his passing. Blessings, Mark M. Wilkins

Mark M Wilkins - April 07, 2021 at 01:49 PM

JW

“ Michael was one of my favorite teachers at HUC. He was always supportive of his students. I remember during a curriculum change that inadvertently overwhelmed the students with work, he told us to just put one of the two readers aside, and assured us that we will get through it. A true mensch who I will miss. My prayers for comfort and condolence to his family.

Jeffrey Wildstein - April 03, 2021 at 10:42 PM

LW

“ We are so sorry to hear about his passing and will miss seeing him at TBO.

Lesley Cantwell West

Lesley West - March 31, 2021 at 07:56 PM

JB

“ *Judie & Bill lit a candle in memory of Rabbi Michael Joseph Cook, Ph.D.*



Judie & Bill - March 31, 2021 at 04:10 PM

DC

“ *1 file added to the album Photos of Dad from David*



David Leonard Cook - March 30, 2021 at 04:13 PM

DC

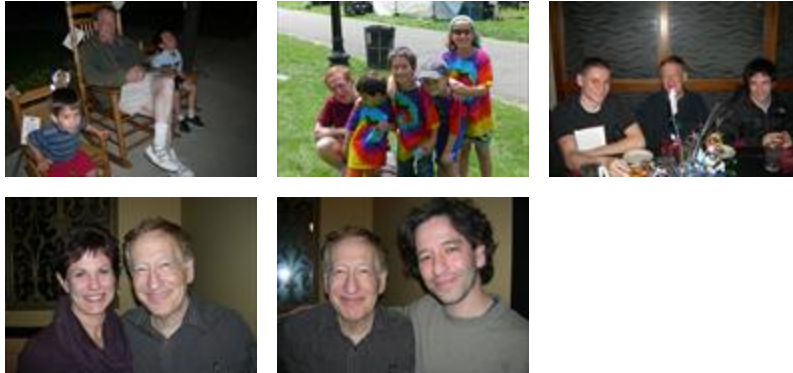
“ *1 file added to the album Photos of Dad from David*



David Leonard Cook - March 30, 2021 at 04:12 PM

DC

“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



David Leonard Cook - March 30, 2021 at 04:11 PM

RE

“ No one could prepare for a class or guest presentation better than Michael. One would be amazed at the quality of his handouts (those pages must have been in the thousands!) along with the thoroughness and organization of his talks. He never failed to hook his audience and maintain its keen interest in his topics. To be able to book him for congregational, regional or national gatherings would always result in a full house.

Always the accessible gentleman, Michael was endowed with an endless supply of patience. He had to be thusly gifted considering all the tricks and jokes we played on him over the years. But the esteem and affection which we students had for him never wavered. Along with being a superb teacher, Michael was a cherished friend.

His memory will always be for a blessing.

Rabbi Jeffrey Elson

Rabbi Jeffrey Elson - March 30, 2021 at 04:09 PM

AS

“ I have many wonderful memories of Michael Cook. We had season tickets to the Cincinnati Symphony, many hours of enjoying each others company, rabbinical advice when asked for, watching our children grow, so much more. He was a Very Good Man and Friend. I will miss him.

Alan Steinharter - March 30, 2021 at 02:26 PM

MB

“ I am saddened by your loss. I will always remember the amazing trip to Israel and getting to know Michael. The first night we were in Tel Aviv we all went down to the beach. You kicked off your shoes and danced out into the water. I was standing next to your husband. He turned to me and said with such tenderness " Just look at the woman I married." You were much loved.

Marti Bernstein - March 30, 2021 at 01:43 PM

SL

“ We have enjoyed Rabbi Cook's participation in services at Temple Beth Or over the years. His lectures were to the point and always interesting. He will be missed.

Sharon Lindquist-Skelley/Tom Skelley

Sharon Lindquist-Skelley - March 30, 2021 at 01:28 PM

DC

“ I was so very sad to hear this news. We always had a little crooked smile for each other, and a little chuckle about something. I will miss him as so many others will. Know you were love and will be missed greatly. Deb Char

Deborah Char - March 30, 2021 at 01:24 PM

RP

“ *Birkat Nechama tohis family and all the "world" who found his brilliance a gift in our studies of religion and religious sources. We jpo9n in sadness over this great loss to Judy, and his family and of us blessed by his gifts Rabbi Samuel Press*

Rabbi Dr Samuel Press - March 30, 2021 at 01:01 PM

CG

“ *Dear Judy and family,
I am so sorry to hear that your beloved husband, father and grandfather has passed. My heart goes out to all of you. May his memory be for a blessing. Even though I didn't have many memories of Michael (z'l) I will cherish our lunches together when I came to visit you both at Camp GUCI. With sympathy, Cathy Gardner*

Cathy Gardner - March 30, 2021 at 12:53 PM



“ *Michael Boyden lit a candle in memory of Rabbi Michael Joseph Cook, Ph.D.*



Michael Boyden - March 30, 2021 at 11:56 AM