



## Dr. Michael Lewis Lichstein

October 26, 1946 - June 20, 2023

Dr. Michael Lewis Lichstein  
1946-2023

Michael L. Lichstein, PhD died suddenly at his home in Cincinnati on Tuesday, June 20th. Dr. Lichstein was born in New York City on October 26, 1946. He spent the first 4 years of his life in Ithaca, New York and in Knoxville Tennessee. In 1950 he moved with his family to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he remained until age 15. In 1961 he moved to Cincinnati where his father became the Chairman of the Department of Microbiology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He attended Walnut Hills high school and graduated cum laude in 1964. While at Walnut Hills he developed the first viable method for digital computers to print their output in braille. This opened the way for many visually impaired persons to gain employment as computer programmers. He was very proud of this accomplishment. Shortly after his birth, he was diagnosed with retinoblastoma which led to the loss of his vision by age 8. He attended Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio where he graduated in 1968 with High Honors in Economics. He then attended graduate school in economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From 1973 to 1979 he was an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Ohio State University. He then pursued graduate studies in Clinical Psychology at the University of Cincinnati where he earned a master's and Ph.D. He began private practice in Clinical Psychology in 1988, a love he

pursued until his death.

Dr. Lichstein was a longtime volunteer for the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CABVI.) He became a Board member of that organization in 1990, served in various positions, and was Board Chair from 2010 to 2015.

Michael was loved by many friends, pets and service dogs. He and his wife Toni enjoyed theatre, music, travel, and collecting art. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Toni Alterman, by his brother, Dr. Peter Lichstein and his wife of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and by his niece and nephew, Dr. Jesse Lichstein of Rockville, Maryland, Dr. Paul Lichstein of Winston-Salem, their spouses and children.

Donations to CABVI, The Seeing Eye, Cincinnati Animal Cares, Tristate Collie Rescue or Planned Parenthood would be appreciated.

A Remembrance Event will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2023, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired (CABVI); 2045 Gilbert Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45202. Please direct questions to [coyote@iglou.com](mailto:coyote@iglou.com).

# Previous Events

## Remembrance Event

AUG **20**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Cincinnati Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired  
2045 Gilbert Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

*Email [coyote@iglou.com](mailto:coyote@iglou.com) for more information.*

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ I am just now seeing the news of Dr Lichstein's passing. I am so grateful to him for helping me through a bad depressive episode. He was a caring man with a great sense of humor.

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**Julia Adams** - December 03, 2024 at 10:47 AM

TS

“ There are not enough words for me to express how I feel about Dr. Lichstein. I talked to him the day before his passing and I am just shocked and so deeply saddened by his passing. He was my doctor over many years but I also considered him my friend. He saw me through so many things. To say he was a wonderful person just doesn't begin to describe him. I will miss his sense of humor and his gift for understanding and caring so much. I want to express my deepest heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends. I will truly truly miss him!!!

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**Terry Stegeman** - June 27, 2023 at 08:06 PM

RB

“ ROBERT/CAROLYN BLOOMFIELD/PEDLEY  
lit a candle in memory of Michael Lichstein



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**ROBERT/CAROLYN BLOOMFIELD/PEDLEY** - June 24, 2023 at 04:20 PM

DG

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Dale Gieringer** - June 24, 2023 at 12:14 PM

DG

“ *Mike and I were close friends. We worked together programming computers for UC Med School in high school. Mike blazed a path for the blind to use computers, inventing the first programs to print Braille on the IBM 1401 and 7040. After graduating from Oberlin, he studied economics at MIT, where I roomed with him in Cambridge. Beset by medical difficulties stemming from his childhood cancer, Mike abandoned an economics teaching job at OSU and became a clinical psychologist. Mike was an expert at diagnosing and helping patients with psychosomatic problems. He was still active in private practice in Mt. Auburn when we saw him at our 75 2 reunion a week ago. Mike's life was an inspiration to all; he overcame grave handicaps with good grace and humor to make genuine accomplishments. - Dale Gieringer, Oakland CA*

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**Dale Gieringer** - June 24, 2023 at 12:03 PM

JC

“ I first met Michael at Walnut Hills when we were in a zoology class together! I was a year or two ahead of him. He never ceased to amaze me with his brilliance and his ability to adapt any assignment to his particular needs. When we did dissections he created clay modelings of his findings rather than create drawings. I lost track of him for many years until we met at an event we both attended several years ago. There is no reason I could expect him to remember me but I have never forgotten him. He was Smart, determined, innovative and curiously interesting. Ironically, I spent my career working with kids who needed accommodations to learn to their best ability. I married an ophthalmologist with a specialty in glaucoma so vision and loss of vision have been a large part of our world. I feel privileged to have rubbed elbows with Michael and send deepest condolences to his wife and those who love him.

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**Julie Shavzin Cohen** - June 24, 2023 at 11:42 AM

ZM

“ Mike was a brilliant wonderful man. He will be missed.

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**Zola Makrauer** - June 24, 2023 at 09:54 AM