



## Joseph Ben-Ur

March 3, 1940 - May 7, 2023

### In Loving Memory of Joseph Ben-Ur

Dr. Joseph Ben-Ur was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on March 3, 1940, the son of Moshe and Flora Kiflawi (Yehuda), and passed away on May 7, 2023.

He was a full professor and much-loved mentor at the University of Houston at Victoria (UHV), where he served 23 years as professor and twice as president of the Faculty Senate. Always looking out for the best interests of all his colleagues, students, and community, Joseph received the UHV Distinguished Faculty Service Award and was named the fourth Professor Emeritus of the university. Then-UHV-President Bob Glenn said, "His work has made a lasting impact on our university."

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics and Master of Business Administration at Hebrew University and Doctor of Philosophy in marketing, with research on buyer-seller relationships, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He published scholarly articles in political marketing, chaired sessions in international conferences, and was a senior editor for the Journal of Political Marketing.

Joseph had a keen curiosity about the world and loved to share it. Within a few years of his family's move to Israel at age 10, he and his brother Abe pursued a decade-long passion for designing and building free-flight model aircraft for national competitions and world championships; Joseph mentored many aero modelers older than himself along the way. He studied physics and mathematics before focusing on economics and marketing. And Joseph sparked delightful adventures with his daughters and granddaughters—from soda-can-propeller-boat science fair projects and everyday paper airplanes, to "the car will decide the direction" drives, to stories from his Iraqi-Jewish childhood. These formative experiences will be missed and remembered.

Joseph is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Tamar (Levav); daughters Nurit and Ela Ben-Ur; granddaughters Maia and Dalia Katz; brother Abe Karem; and many nieces and

nephews. He is preceded by his brothers Isaac and Jacob Kiflawi.

A graveside service will be held this Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 1pm at Austin Memorial Park. A livestream of the service will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AustinNaturalFunerals> a few minutes before 1 pm. A Facebook account is not required to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

In lieu of flowers, we appreciate donations to the wonderful Children's Discovery Museum in Victoria, TX. or the charity of your choice.

# Previous Events

## Computer Accessible Graveside Service

MAY 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page  
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals>

*A live stream will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page a few minutes before 1 PM. A Facebook account is not required to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.*

## Graveside Service

MAY 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park  
2800 Hancock Dr.  
Austin, TX 78731

# Tribute Wall

PB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Parimal Bhagat - October 15, 2023 at 01:21 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Personal Life



Ela Ben-Ur - May 12, 2023 at 11:56 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ela Ben-Ur - May 10, 2023 at 08:44 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Personal Life



Ela Ben-Ur - May 10, 2023 at 08:38 AM



*Joseph with his loving granddaughters, who say, respectively:*

*"You taught me to make paper airplanes. I will always love you. You are so inspiring."*

*and,*

*"I miss you soooo much. You are the best grandpa EVER! Lots of love."*

---

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 10, 2023 at 08:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Professional Life*



---

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 10, 2023 at 08:36 AM

DC

“ *Dr. Ben-Ur was an exemplary professor and Faculty Senate President. May he rest in peace.*

---

**Dr. Olga Chapa** - May 09, 2023 at 10:07 PM



*Thank you so much, we know he poured his heart into those roles and your words mean so much to us. - Tamar and Ela*

---

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 10, 2023 at 08:44 AM

BN

*Joseph and I traveled the world together speaking about the exciting world of Politics in our capacities as Professors of Marketing. I met Joseph as a fellow PhD student at the University of Illinois in 1975, and that started a lifelong friendship that brought our two families together on many beautiful occasions. I remember well the great dinner parties at Joseph and Tamar's house where they grilled wonderful Laban's and rice that was my source of home-cooked foods as a single man, loving being part of their family gatherings with their two beautiful daughters. Joseph remained one of my best friends for life, as we worked together at two different universities and had wonderful times together, eating wonderful food in Milwaukee and Chicago restaurants, and engaged in deep conversations about every imaginable topic under the sun. Joseph was funny, brilliant, engaging, and knowledgeable about many topics in life. Most importantly, he was a loyal friend who was always watching my back in well over 20 different countries where we participated in conferences on the topic of Political Marketing. Perhaps the most exciting trip was my one and only trip to Israel with Joseph and a colleague to visit Jerusalem. I learned alot from Joseph, and loved being with him and just hanging out together. He always shared his most personal feelings and thoughts about life, as I did with him, and I gleaned much wisdom from him about raising children. He will be missed greatly by me and my wife, Judy, and we wish the whole Ben-Ur family much peace and strength during this difficult period. G-d blessed you all with a gem of a human being, and I know anyone who knew him loved him.*

*Bruce and Judy Newman*

**Bruce Newman** - May 10, 2023 at 09:07 AM



*Bruce, thank you so much for sharing all these wonderful and touching experiences. Your lifelong friendship meant so much to him and to us. - Tamar and Ela*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 10, 2023 at 09:53 AM

JK

*“ I've known the Ben-Ur family for more than 40 years. I remember Dr. Ben-Ur as a kind person who was happy to welcome me into his home during my summer visits over many years. The last time I saw him at Ela's wedding I was struck by how proud he was of his daughter and family, his joy was palpable. I am thankful to have had the chance to know him. May his memory be a blessing.*

**Jenny Klein** - May 09, 2023 at 10:06 PM



*Jenny and Kathy, my father appreciated you both and Mike so much, and appreciated how you welcomed me into your home and became my second family. Thank you so much for sharing these memories and thoughts.*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 09, 2023 at 10:27 PM

SS

*“ Joseph was a gentleman. He was kind, sensitive, and patient. He was a dedicated faculty member and a good friend.*

**Stephanie Solansky** - May 09, 2023 at 03:46 PM



*Thank you so much, Stephanie, for sharing this about Joseph and your friendship- Ela and Tamar*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 09, 2023 at 09:41 PM

SP

“ *Joseph was a valued mentor for me as a junior faculty at UHV. I enjoyed working with him in faculty governance and the world is diminished by his passing. My condolences to his family and friends.*

**Sandy Venneman PhD** - May 09, 2023 at 03:45 PM



*Thank you so much for sharing Joseph's impact on you and the world, Sandy, we deeply appreciate it. - Ela and Tamar*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 09, 2023 at 09:43 PM

JB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Jeff Blodgett** - May 09, 2023 at 01:38 PM



*This is a wonderful photo, thank you so much for sharing it, Jeff! - Tamar and Ela*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 09, 2023 at 09:41 PM

JB

“ *I am so glad to have know Joseph. What a wonderful man!*

**Jeff Blodgett** - May 09, 2023 at 01:35 PM

DC

“ *Dr. Joseph Ben-Ur was a kind and respected colleague who was dedicated to serving UHV. I had the pleasure of working with him on many committees over the years. He will be missed.*

**Dr. Peggy Cloninger** - May 09, 2023 at 01:30 PM



*Peggy, it means so much to hear you talk about Joseph's kindness and dedication, thank you! - Tamar and Ela*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 09, 2023 at 10:04 PM

PB

*Dear Ela and the Ben-Ur family, I'm really sorry for your loss. I was one of Joseph's political marketing buddies. I remember him for his immense fun, quiet insights, and wisdom. On one occasion at a political marketing conference in Romania, he and I went for a walk out of a restaurant where our colleagues were congregated. I cannot remember why we left, but when we were on our way back we were confronted by a family of brown bears: papa, mama, and two baby bears. I was babbling as we were talking up the hill and he just looked at me and said "shhhhh! Look ahead, don't move a muscle. Just wait!" He was so cool about it. Neither scared nor complacent. I was looking for somewhere to run I have to say! Afterwards, we joked about it, but it was pretty hair-raising. So I think Joe may have saved me from a mauling there. Wonderful man, we will miss him dearly in the political marketing community.*

*Prof Paul Baines, United Kingdom*

**Paul Baines** - May 10, 2023 at 10:27 AM

SG

*I only met Joseph once. He was visiting his brother, Itzak, whose son had married our daughter. There was a special showing of a film about the exodus of Jews from Arab countries and we had arranged to go with Itzak. I was sitting next to Joseph when a couple of strangers sat in the empty seats beside me. One of them asked if I was Iraqi. I said no but that my neighbor was from Baghdad. They said that they knew Baghdad but they had actually lived in Kilis. I then swapped places with Joseph. When he told them the original family name, they knew it well. His ancestors had been the guardians of the tomb of Ezekiel. The two families had known each other well. They were excited to meet Joseph and, long after the film had ended, the three of them were still talking to each other. They would never forget their brief encounter with Joseph and neither would my wife and I, such was his charisma.*  
*Solomon Green*

**Solomon Green** - May 11, 2023 at 07:52 PM



*Dear Paul and Solomon, thank you so, so much for these tributes—and especially these delightful anecdotes! It's magical having new windows into moments in my father's life.*

*They came in as comments rather than posts so I can't reply directly but hope you get notified of my reply here. Thank you so much again!*

**Ela Ben-Ur** - May 18, 2023 at 11:17 AM