



Dr. Gerald Bruce Sonenshine

April 12, 1951 - June 26, 2022

Dr. Gerald Bruce Sonenshine passed away, Sunday, June 26, 2022, at the age of 71 after complications from a fall in March. He was born in Charleston, SC April 12, 1951, to Mildred and Irving Sonenshine. Gerald graduated from Porter-Gaud School, Emory University, and the Medical University of SC College of Dentistry. After graduating, he served in the United States Air Force Dental Corps.

Gerald practiced dentistry in Columbia before joining his family's business, Wholesale Industrial Electronics. He was in the business for over 35 years and was President of the company at the time of his passing. Over his many years in the business, Gerald touched the lives of countless current and former employees with not only his business sense but compassion for their lives inside and outside of the office.

He was a past President of the Kahn Jewish Community Center and presently served on its Board of Directors. He was a proud member of Beth Shalom Synagogue. Gerald enjoyed politics and was passionate about Israel by volunteering his time with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Gerald supported many other causes including the Wounded Warrior Project, Honest Reporting, and Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Gerald was an avid sports fan. He played baseball and basketball in his youth and tennis as an adult at Rockbridge Club. He especially enjoyed watching his grandsons play hockey and taking his granddaughters to the park. Gerald was a devoted husband and had a big heart.

He was preceded in death by his father, Irving Sonenshine. Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Nancy Leffler Sonenshine; son, David and wife Joanne Sonenshine, of Arlington, VA; daughter, Emily and husband Mark Greenberg, of Charlotte, NC; grandchildren, Jacob and Daniel Sonenshine; Celia and Sadie Greenberg; his mother, Mildred Breibart Sonenshine of Atlanta, GA; brothers, Stanley and wife Debbie Sonenshine of Atlanta, GA; Kenny and wife Sharon Sonenshine of Atlanta, GA; sister-in-law, Ann and husband Jay Davis of Atlanta, GA; brother-in-law, Stuart and wife Tammy

Leffler of Ellicott City, MD and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The graveside service will be held at 2 o'clock, Tuesday, June 28th at Bonaventure Cemetery, 330 Bonaventure Road, Savannah, GA 31404. Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, is assisting the family. For those unable to attend the service will be livestreamed at shivesfuneralhome.com.

We are grateful for the help of Amedisys Hospice for their assistance during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Beth Shalom Synagogue or Kahn Jewish Community Center.

<https://www.bethshalomcolumbia.org> or <https://jcccolumbia.org>

Cemetery Details

Bonaventure Cemetery

330 Bonaventure Road
Savannah, GA 31404

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUN 28. 2:00 PM (ET)

Bonaventure Cemetery
330 Bonaventure Road
Savannah, GA 31404

Tribute Wall



“ *Shives Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Gerald Bruce Sonenshine*

Webcast presented exclusively by:



Shives Funeral Home - June 27 at 07:33 PM

GS

“ *Dear Nancy, Miss Mickey, Stanley, Kenny and the Sonenshine Family,*

It was painful to hear of Gerald's death. I grew up in Charleston with Gerald and he was a role model for many of us. Gerald was kind, smart, personable, and a leader by example. He was also a feared left handed pitcher on the Little League ball field and, if I recall correctly, was a big Dodgers fan. I remember fondly playing sports with Gerald at the JCC. We always wanted to be on Gerald's team, and from the tributes I've read from his employees, it sounds like that was something he carried on throughout life. Gerald was one of the good guys. He will be sorely missed. May your memories of Gerald remain everlasting and May your grief pass quickly. Love, Gary Solomon



Gary Solomon - July 02 at 10:52 AM

MT

“ *Nancy, David, and Emily I am shocked and heartbroken to hear of Gerald's passing. He was very special to me too. We were tennis partners and teammates every week for 20+ years. He was a great athlete, tennis player, a terrific person and a dear friend. He will be greatly missed by us all.*

*Love you guys
Mike Tyler*

Mike Tyler - June 29 at 11:27 AM



“ *It was with deep sorrow that my wife Laurie & I heard of the untimely death of Dr. Gerald Bruce Sonenshine. May he rest in peace and may his memory always be a blessing.*



Joel Block - June 29 at 11:07 AM

DL

“ *Denice Snyder Leebow lit a candle in memory of Dr. Gerald Bruce Sonenshine*



denice snyder leebow - June 29 at 08:10 AM

BE

“ *Gerald was a kind and loving man. As a cousin he was also kind and loving. Many vacations spent visiting Charleston and playing with all of us. He would tease us, and make me laugh. Gerald loved his family and it was obvious when he spoke of them with a twinkle in his eyes.
We are very sad and know that Gerald will be missed by family and friends.
Bernice Mellman (First cousin)*

Bernice - June 28 at 09:39 PM

AM

“ A few days from now will be my 30th Anniversary with Wholesale. I always Loved to call Gerald and remind him how much I Love working for him and sharing with him the mile stones in my life here at Wholesale. I always liked to remind him of hearing of stories of Mr. Irving Sonenshine starting this business selling out of the trunk of his car. And just look at where Wholesale is today. I know how proud he was to carry on his Dad's Great legacy and how proud I am to be part of the Wholesale Family. I have been Thankful to have a boss (A President of a Company) that I know cared not just for me but for my family as well. That's unheard of this day and time.

I'm Thankful I had the opportunity many times to tell him how much I appreciated him and what a Blessing he has been to me over the years. Every time he would call he would say, "Amy, are you keeping those boys in line up there?" I would laugh and tell him Yes. I will miss those phone calls and conversations.

Prayers for peace and comfort in the days and months ahead for this Wonderful Sonenshine Family! My Heart is with you during this time.

And Gerald... I'll keep the Boys in line.

*With Much Love,
Amy Lewallen
WIE Greenville, SC*

Amy - June 28 at 04:44 PM

CM

“ To those of you who were not able to access the livestream today, we apologize but the bad weather conditions in Savannah, Georgia today resulted in a bad web connection. Thank you to those who called concerning this matter. Please check back with us tomorrow and we will hopefully have a taped version of Dr. Sonenshines service available for viewing on this site.

Unfortunately this sometimes happens with outdoor services and unfavorable weather conditions. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

*The Shives Funeral Home Staff
Columbia, South Carolina*

Catherine Mabry - June 28 at 04:17 PM

LR

“ So many memories flooding my mind from growing up in our special neighborhood....Gerald love to hear all of me and Emily's funny stories and impressions.....and would just laugh and laugh.
I am sending so much love to all of you, Lindsay

Lindsay Rabin - June 28 at 03:04 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Dr. Gerald Bruce Sonenshine.



June 28 at 12:59 PM

LK

“ Gerald was a wonderful man who indeed had a huge heart. He was always including me even when others felt otherwise. He was my brother-in-law, even to the end. He will truly be missed!

Laura Kellogg - June 28 at 12:50 PM

BM

“ My deepest condolences to the Sonenshine Family! Gerald was an asset to the community, a good friend, and a great longtime customer of Groucho's Deli. He always had a charming smile that brought good Kharma to every conversation. My Mom (Faye) and I are extremely saddened by his passing. He will be greatly missed!

Bruce Miller

Bruce Miller - June 28 at 11:40 AM

KE

“ So very sorry to hear about Gerald's passing! We played a lot of tennis at Rockbridge many years ago. Gerald had such a terrific attitude ... indeed, quite the gentleman! He is at peace now and we will all miss him greatly. Truly a good man! My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Kevin Elmore - June 27 at 10:30 PM

FL

“ Nancy, David and Emily Your husband and father was a very special man. When I heard a few days ago how sick Gerald was , it was devastating! I loved Gerald as if he was a brother. When the Sonenshine's moved in across the street from the Lourie's it started so many wonderful incredible memories. I feel as if our families grew up together. I will miss (soft and easy) Gerald! Love Frank

Frank Lourie - June 27 at 10:23 PM

ES

“ Rest peacefully dear friend.
Sending love to Nancy and family.
Ellen and Fred

Ellen and Fred Seidenberg - June 27 at 09:25 PM

LB

“ Dear Nancy, 'Em and David,
There are no words I can say to tell you how heartbroken I was learn of Gerald's passing. Forty-four years of friendship and so many memories with our families is still not enough. I am sending my love and prayers to you all.

Friends forever, with love,
Linda Blank

Linda Blank - June 27 at 08:21 PM

MT

“ Gerald was my boss, but also my friend. He gave me an opportunity to prove myself years ago, and I never let him down. I loved that he would rely on me to help him with anything. It was truly minuscule to help him, compared to the wisdom and instructions he imparted to me. I know he always genuinely cared about me and wanted me to the best I could. We could be very opposite on opinions, and that gave us great dynamic.
Gerald, thank you for all the ways you blessed me, as well as how you blessed so many others.

I miss you so much already.....be at rest.

Shalom,

Mark Tribbey
WIE Columbia

Mark Tribbey - June 27 at 08:10 PM

SL

“ Dear Nancy and Sonenshine Family,

We are so deeply saddened by the loss of Gerald on Sunday. Although we have not belonged to Beth Shalom Synagogue for several years, we know your family through Gerald's dedication to and work in the entire Columbia Jewish community. We always admired his compassion, caring and commitment to those causes he championed. He was a mensch in every in every sense of the word. He will greatly missed.

Sally and Steven Langer

Steven & Sally Langer - June 27 at 05:31 PM

MM

“ Dear Nancy, David, Emily and family,

We are so sorry for your loss. Gerald was truly a mensch. Loving husband, father and grandfather. Gerald's amazing legacy will live on in his children and grandchildren. He will be greatly missed not only by his family but by all his friends and our community. Whenever we saw Gerald, he was always so friendly and interested in what was happening in our lives. A compassionate and caring individual dedicated to making our community and world a better place. We have you in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May G-d give you strength in the days ahead and may you find comfort in all your happy family memories.

*Love,
Minda & Henry*

minda miller - June 27 at 03:08 PM

NS

“ *Words are inadequate to express our shock and sorrow on Gerald's death. We have many memories of good times our families spent together when we lived in Columbia and fondly remember the visit he and Nancy made to Aspen about 10 years ago. Gerald was thoughtful, kind and funny, devoted to Nancy, David and Emily and generous with his time and service to the JCC. Know he will be missed. Our deepest sympathy to Nancy and the kids and grandkids.*
Nancy and Steve Shane

Nancy Shane - June 27 at 02:52 PM

DL

“ Dear Family,
I am so sorry for Gerald's. Gerald and I worked many years together for the Kahn JCC. I especially will miss discussing and or commiserating about dentistry. Over the past twenty years, we spent a lot of time sharing political e-mails and cartoons. I always loved getting a response back from Gerald when he really loved the e-mail.
Gerald was such a nice man. A real mench. I, as well as our community, will miss him and his dedication to our Jewish Community.
May his memory be for a blessing.

David Lovit

David Lovit - June 27 at 02:00 PM

SK

“ We are so heartbroken for your loss and the community's loss. Gerald was an outstanding person, leader, family man and friend. Sending love to Nancy, David, Emily and families.
Love, Shelley and Rob K.

Shelley Kriegshaber - June 27 at 01:19 PM

SC

“ Praying for peace and comfort for the entire Sonenshine family. It was always a pleasure speaking to him about day to day business and he never failed to inquire about my family. Such a great man, he will be missed...

Stace Cassell
WIE Greenville SC

STACE CASSELL - June 27 at 11:29 AM

JB

“ Thinking of you all during this difficult time.
Baruch dayan haemet!
Love
Judie Barkan

judie Barkan - June 27 at 11:10 AM

TG

“ Gerald will be in our thoughts with love and peace. May every day bring comfort as we live our lives thinking of and sharing our memories of all Gerald brought to us. Rest In Peace dear sweet Gerald.

*With loving tribute,
Terri and Howard*

terri garfinkel - June 27 at 08:42 AM

KH

“ We are thinking of you all during this difficult time. Sending many hugs your way.

*Love,
The Hanley Family*

Karen Hanley - June 27 at 08:23 AM