



## Gerald "Jerry" Rothenberg

March 20, 1940 - October 25, 2023

Jerry was born in Detroit, MI to Sam and Ida Rothenberg. Jerry met the love of his life Marlene (otherwise known as Pussycat) when he was 17 and she was 13 years of age. They married four years later and had an unbelievable marriage of love, laughter and friendship for 55 years. Jerry and Marlene moved to Gary in 1965 where they raised 4 children. Jerry was an amazing father and role model to Dr. Jeff (Joani) Rothenberg, Terri (Bob) Chmara, Lisa (Michael) Giglio, and Julie (deceased). Jerry was a very proud Zayde to his nine grandchildren: Leela, Ben Tamir, Maya, Tal, Jake, Alex, Jamie, Moe and Elaine, and great Zayde to Millie and Porter.

Jerry was the Administrator of West Side Nursing Home for over 25 years and was currently employed at Arman's Hot Dog Restaurant. Jerry was very active in his community. He served as past President of Temple Israel and other various board positions for over 60 years. He was a past president of the Exchange Club, a Jewish Federation Board Member and was involved in numerous other philanthropic and non-profit organizations throughout his life. Jerry, a pillar of the Gary community, was a tireless advocate for the city. He enjoyed looking at Lake Michigan, driving around the neighborhoods, talking and telling jokes to everyone. Jerry also loved his purple dune buggy in which he gave rides and memories to hundreds of family and friends.

We could not have asked for a better moral compass as a husband, father, Zayde, father-in-law, uncle, boss and friend. Jerry loved to tell jokes (often the same ones) and always had a smile.

Words alone cannot describe the loss Jerry's family and friends feel, but his traditions and jokes will be carried on through his legacy.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Temple Israel Julie Fund or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Jerry's funeral and celebration of life will be held on Friday, October 27, 2023 from 1 p.m. until the time of the funeral at 2 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point. Rabbi Diane Tracht officiating. Interment Temple Israel Cemetery, Portage, IN. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com).

Funeral service will be livestreamed via facebook live at 2 p.m.

# Cemetery Details

## Temple Israel Cemetery

Portage, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **27**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Funeral Service

OCT **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
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# Tribute Wall

LM

“ Back in 1983 I was a nursing aide student at the Gary Area Career Center. I was so apprehensive about my nursing home rotation at West Side Nursing Home. I'll never forget the very first time I walked in the facility and met Mr. Rothenberg. I was impressed by how clean the home was and how well taken care of the residents appeared to be. After listening to Mr Rothenberg speak I was convinced that he truly cared about the people he served and the people he employed. Two weeks after the completion of my rotation I received a phone call from Mrs. Rothenberg offering me a job,my 1st job at their nursing home.

I happily worked for Mr Rothenberg for 2 years before going to college. The speech on the 1st day of meeting him were not just mere words and empty promises. I was blessed to have found out firsthand how exceptional of a person he actually was. I can genuinely say that he made sure that all his residents received the very best care. He always listened to their and his employees' concerns.

I am now 57 years old and have had a number of bosses, but Mr. Jerry Rothenberg was by far the very best. He was the gold standard for me. You would not believe how many times over the years I have bragged about him and the type nursing home he ran. My most sincerest condolences to Mrs. Rothenberg and family. He was a gem of a human being. Heaven just got a little brighter and funnier. May God be with you always.

*Most Sincerely Yours,*

*Laura Molina-Hayes*

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**Laura Molina-Hayes** - October 27, 2023 at 08:05 PM

JO

“ I worked as a physical therapist at West Side for a contract company. I met often with Jerry and Marlene. They truly cared for their residents, and did the best for them. I was impressed by their kindness for those less able to care for themselves. It was a life lesson for me. May he rest in peace.

John - October 27, 2023 at 07:33 PM

MM

“ All my prayers to the entire Rothenberg family. Mr. Rothenberg was a great man and a true Miller legend. I remember one summer when I was home from college. I was looking for a job to help pay for my next semester. I ran into Mr. and Mrs. Rothenberg at the Big Wheel in Miller and told them my situation. The next day, Mr. Rothenberg gave me a job at West Side Nursing Home for the entire summer. Due to his generosity, I was able to return, and graduate, from Butler University. That story happened 45 years ago, and I still remember it like it was yesterday. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rothenberg had such great hearts. Their caring nature will never be forgotten. All my thoughts and prayers.

Michael Mioduski, Portage, Indiana (Grew up in Miller)

Michael Mioduski - October 27, 2023 at 03:41 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Rothenberg.



October 27, 2023 at 01:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Rothenberg.

October 27, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Rothenberg.



October 27, 2023 at 08:28 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Rothenberg.



October 26, 2023 at 08:45 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Rothenberg.

October 26, 2023 at 08:45 PM



“ Jerry was an amazing person. It was an honor to know him. We wish the family comfort during this time of grief. - John & Jose Bernadyn

**John Bernadyn** - October 26, 2023 at 08:43 PM

JP

“ *Donna and I send our prayers to the entire Rothenberg family. We have many great memories of time spent with Jerry. May you be comforted by your fun memories of your father and knowing how many lives he positively impacted. Thanks for sharing him with all of us. Shalom.*

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**John Prinz** - October 26, 2023 at 07:32 PM