



Laszlo Berkowits

February 29, 1928 - December 14, 2020

Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits

Of Falls Church, Virginia, passed December 13, 2020. He is the beloved husband of the late Judith Berkowits; loving father of Julie Poggioli (Peter) and Deborah Litwak (Rabbi Alan); Grandfather of Zoe, Hannah, Sam, Naomi, and Yael. His greatest joy was his family.

Born in Hungary in 1928, he survived the Nazi concentration camps in Europe, and eventually started a new life in the United States. He served in the United States Army and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. Rabbi Berkowits was ordained from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1963 and took his first and only pulpit in Falls Church, Virginia at Temple Rodef Shalom. He leaves behind an enormous legacy in the Jewish community he helped to create.

Rabbi Berkowits was passionate about books, art and music. He was a great connector, and loved sharing his life story with young and old alike.

Throughout his career, his involvement in interfaith work, and serving on Virginia's Human Rights Commission, his hallmark message was ensuring human dignity in all aspects of life. His memory will be a blessing.

Online memorial service on Tuesday, December 15 at 10:00am at templerodefshalom.org/live. Contributions may be made to Temple Rodef Shalom or HIAS.

Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Rabbi Berkowits performed my Bar Mitzvah in Oct 1980. My mother's grandfather was one of 20 danish fisherman that smuggled him and many others to Sweeden fleeing the Nazis . He is missed*

Martin Keller - November 14, 2025 at 07:41 AM



“ *Laszlo Berkowits*

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

MK

“ *Moshe Katz lit a candle in memory of Laszlo Berkowits*



moshe katz - January 10, 2022 at 11:56 AM

SM

“ *Rabbi Berkowitz was an inspiration to us. He worked with my husband on his conversion and officiated at our wedding ceremony. He signed our Ketuba, which proudly hangs on our wall. We accompanied him on a trip to Hungry and Auschwitz along with fellow congregants. Although we have moved from Virginia, Temple Rodef Shalom, the temple he started, will always be in our hearts. Walt & Sheila Margeson*

Sheila Margeson - December 16, 2020 at 09:39 PM