



Seymour Wengrovitz

March 2, 1929 - April 16, 2021

Seymour Wengrovitz, 92, of Springfield, Virginia, passed away on April 16, 2021. He was predeceased by his wife of 66 years, Judith Kanarick Wengrovitz (1931-2018), and his brother Paul Wengrovitz. He is survived by his three sons, Michael (Debbie), Phillip (Carolyn), and David (Anne) Wengrovitz; five grandchildren, Steven (Dan), Dan (Julia), Lauren, Andrew, and Austin Wengrovitz; and a great-granddaughter, Elise.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, on March 2, 1929, to Oscar and Anna Wengrovitz, Sy grew up surrounded by family in his neighborhood of Brighton Beach. He attended Brooklyn Technical High School and graduated from City College in Manhattan in January 1951 with an engineering degree. He loved to tell the story of how he first met his future wife, Judy, helping to clean up at a college party and insisting on driving her home afterwards; they married in 1952.

Moving to Springfield, Virginia in 1951, Sy spent many years working in the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Laboratories at Fort Belvoir, Virginia as a Civil Engineer, where his work focused on the design and testing of military bridges. He also worked at the Pentagon and for FEMA.

After retiring from the federal government, Sy transferred his engineering skills to woodcarving, a hobby he started as a teenager. He specialized in carving

folk musicians, Jewish religious figures, carousel horses, wood mosaics, and life-like items of clothing. He received recognition in national and local juried art exhibitions and gallery shows, often alongside the watercolor paintings of his wife, and was active for many years with the Northern Virginia Carvers, the Art League (Alexandria, VA), Springfield Art Guild, and the American Wood Carvers Association.

In addition to woodcarving, Sy was a passionate philatelist and deltiologist, specializing in collecting stamps and picture postcards of the Danish West Indies and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and wrote historical manuscripts of John Nathaniel Lightbourn.

Sy and Judy traveled all over the world together. Favorite memories included Germany, Italy, Greece, and the rocky coast of Maine. His residence for the last several years has been at Greenspring Village in Springfield, Virginia, where he happily continued his woodcarving.

Donations in memory of Seymour Wengrovitz can be made to Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria VA (mail to: Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria, VA 22302) and the Springfield Art Guild (mail to: Lydia Jechorek, Attn: SAG, 5608 Doolittle Street, Burke, VA 22015).

Tribute Wall

AS

“ I met Sy through the internet, as he was preparing to write "A Philatelic Story", based on a letter he had recently purchased, written by an ancestral relative, B.M. Simmonds. Through several years of correspondence and collaboration, I got to learn and appreciate Sy's multiple virtues: Thoroughness, discipline, and generosity. Although the letter subject of A Philatelic Story was written by a non-relative, his thorough research on the Simmonds Family extended far beyond what our own family had discovered. On a quick visit to Sy and Judith's home as a side work related trip, I got to see his disciplined approach to his wood carving hobby, and to his Postcard Collecting. Sy introduced me to his quest (at the time) to document the cartophilic (postcard) history of a St. Thomas postcard printer. Our discussion on this topic encouraged me to pursue a similar postcard history for the northern coastal towns of Colombia South America. Today, and thanks to Sy, I own the most complete collection of postcards of those towns (~500), and plan to write a book on the topic. Sy and I kept in touch following up on family history, and my wife and I met with Sy and Judith again in Daytona, FL, on one of their travels. On that occasion, Sy gave me a copy of his picture catalogue of St. Thomas postcards. Thank you Sy for sharing with me your virtues. Rest in peace my friend. --Art & Sunny Simmonds

Art Simmonds - August 09, 2025 at 09:00 AM



“ Seymour Wengrovitz

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

DR

“ Dear Dave, Anne and Lauren, Our deepest sympathy to you and your family as you mourn the loss of your dear father, father-in-law and grandfather. Sad news but he lived a wonderful, loving life. May he rest in peace.

Don Ryan and Marilena Amoni

Don Ryan - April 20, 2021 at 05:08 PM

MR

“ Sorry to read about your father’s passing. We enjoyed being with him and your mother on several day trips with B’nai Brith back in the 70’s and sharing carpool duties for Sunday school at Agudas Achim.

Max & Sylvia Rabinovitz

Max & Sylvia Rabinovitz - April 20, 2021 at 01:18 PM

JR

“ I always enjoyed talking to Seymour at B'nai Brith events and joined him and Judy preparing the lox an bagel breakfasts. When he moved to Greenspring, he frequently accompanied Judy to her watercolor classes she taught and supported her by pushing the shopping cart loaded with an easel, paintbrushes, paints, and pencils. May his memory be for a blessing. Jane Rosenthal

Jane Rosenthal - April 18, 2021 at 12:14 PM