

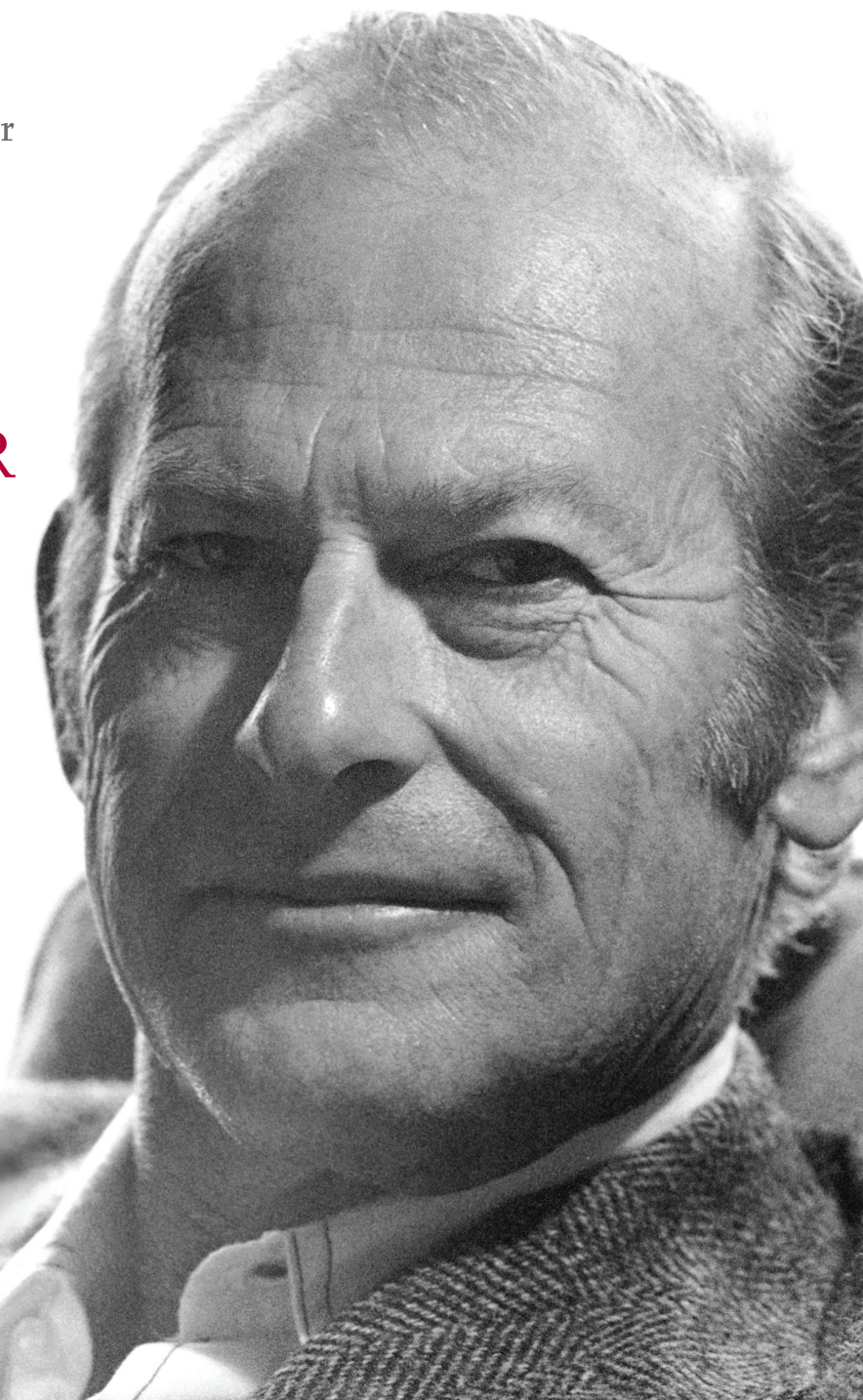


Jewish Healing Center
LOS ANGELES

WE REMEMBER

Each person is as unique
as their thumbprint and
so is their passing.

JHCLA.ORG



WHAT WE DO

The Jewish Healing Center of Los Angeles (JHCLA) provides compassionate care for individuals affected by serious illness and other life crises through a multifaceted approach to healing, based on the wisdom of the Jewish tradition.

Our Hospice Chaplains help ease the sorrow of separation and impending loss by revealing the hidden treasures that are part of this process. Patients in turn share their journey, each one precious and sacred.

(Cover Photo: Harold G. Howard, 1921-2012. Physician, Cantor)

FOR WHOM

Since 2001, as Los Angeles' first Jewish Hospice service, we have been privileged and honored to enter the lives of more than 4,000 individuals in their time of need.

These people differ in ethnicity, languages spoken, socio-economic status and religious practice. They may not have a religious practice at all...

What these families share is their decision to bring a loved one's passing back into their homes, recognizing that it is a key part of life.

Each person profiled here was able to approach the end of life with maximum comfort and in familiar surroundings.

The Jewish Healing Center of Los Angeles relies on the generosity of our community as we serve individuals and families at their time of greatest need. Help us to make sure that when you or your family face a challenge, we will be strong and vital to do the necessary work.

Please take a moment to make your gift to JHCLA. Thank you.



VICTOR SIDHU

1938-2014

Victor was born in Pittsburgh in 1938 to an India born father.

Studying physics at Princeton, his first job was at Argonne National Laboratory designing and building an early quadrupole magnet for focusing linear accelerator beams. Victor's own path, however, proved far from linear. His insatiable curiosity then led him to the social sciences. He earned a B.A. in political science from the University of Chicago in 1961. He married Nancy Chadwick Dayton and they headed to doctoral studies at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, she in quantitative economics, he in sociology. Daughter Mary arrived in 1962. Victor was then enticed by the financial world, which occupied him for the rest of his career. He left his mark on such institutions as Dean Witter & Company and Chicago Title & Trust before starting RMI Corporation. He joined Harris Trust & Savings Bank and rose to Institutional Trust Division Manager. In 1987 he and Nancy moved to Los Angeles

and he worked with First Interstate Bank of California, Capital Research & Management Company and then as Chief Investment Officer at Santa Barbara Bank & Trust. Everywhere, his employees considered him their "best boss ever."

Victor also served as a Deacon at the Winnetka Congregational Church and was an active congregant at Westwood Presbyterian Church and a lifelong supporter of The Salvation Army.

The Chaplain Remembers

He was an economist who loved God as much as numbers, a man who discussed God wrestling. The psalms were balm to his soul and we used them as our most powerful palliative agent. Visiting Victor was a delight—he was an engaging and hungry student in this final chapter of his life.

—Rabbi Carla Howard

JOSÉE STARK

1947-2015

Luxembourg born, Josée met Michael while working as a nurse in Switzerland. She left her homeland and family to begin a new life in the U.S., continuing nursing while Michael became a physician.

Choosing Judaism, Josée made a Jewish home for daughters Michelle and Nicole, welcoming grandchildren Caleb, Miriam, Leah and Waylon. She was a President of ORT as well.

In 1984 she was chosen as Attaché for the Luxembourg Olympic Team in Los Angeles. For her service, she was awarded the coveted "Order of Merit" from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Mom.

I loved that she said the cats were snoring instead of purring...every time she spelled her name on the phone she made sure to let them know there was an accent aigu on the first "e" of her name to no avail, forever receiving mail as "Jose Stark."

Life Lessons: have a glass of water after each glass of wine...wine is appropriate at almost any occasion...don't sweat the small stuff...if it won't matter five years from now, it's not important.

—Nicole

Mom. . . .

Listened to your problems, remembered and asked about them later. She was universally loved. When she first

needed help with meals and company, over 30 of her friends signed up. That was three years ago. Almost daily for the duration, friends would come to care for the friend who always put others first. Her joy of life and other people shined through in all she did.

—Michelle

The Chaplain Remembers

I met a nurse struck with multi-systems atrophy, a rare degenerative neurological disease and her physician husband. For two years we explored her special place: her garden. When she could not walk anymore and later could not speak, we explored the Huntington and Descanso Gardens with our minds' eyes, imagining the lovely flowers and streams. Josée was as beautiful as these gardens.

—Chaplain Ronnie Abrams, RN





RONNIE COHEN

1946-2015

He was born Daniel Ronnie Cohen, the third son of Moshe and Yetta Cohen, joining brothers Norman and David. His father owned House of Israel, a Judaica store in Los Angeles.

From the age of nine, Ronnie was involved with Ha Bonim, moving through the ranks of camper, counselor, business manager and finally Director. A competitive gymnast, Ronnie lettered at Fairfax High. In 1965, at age 19, he met Hilda Konig. They were married at Temple Beth Shalom in San Francisco in 1969.

Ronnie was accepted into a Linguistics Doctoral program at Columbia University so he and Hilda moved to New York. Joshua Avi Chai Cohen (Jay) was born in 1974 and in 1975 the family headed back to Los Angeles.

Ronnie completed his studies to become a CPA. He later joined forces with Al Pivo to form Cohen Pivo, a business management firm in Beverly Hills.

In 2002 Ronnie entered American Jewish University to become a rabbi. While at AJU he applied to become a Rabbinic Intern at Jewish Hospice Project, Los Angeles' first end of life care for the Jewish community. He became its Chief Financial Officer when the organization expanded to become JHCLA. He later returned to teaching at AJU.

When son Jay married Sandy, Ronnie got the daughter he had always wanted.

THE CHAPLAIN REMEMBERS

Ronnie: Rabbi, Chaplain, CFO, Patient & Friend

In 2005 the Jewish Hospice Project, which I co-founded, was undergoing reorganization and becoming the Jewish Healing and Hospice Center of Los Angeles. Then I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I was able to rely on Ronnie Cohen, who was serving as the Rabbinic Intern, to fill in any gaps. We managed throughout my surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to almost seamlessly transition JHCLA into the excellent organization it is today.

Ronnie later became the Chief Financial Officer of JHCLA. He continued to be a rock—for the board, who trusted his financial guidance, and for patients, who appreciated his gentle spirit, sense of humor and willingness to listen.

The patient he saw the longest, week in and week out for several years, was a man with a mind as keen as Ronnie's, who fancied himself a linguist in Yiddish. The two of them loved competition and their hours were often spent trying to stump one another with arcane Yiddish words. That man was my father.

Community members and friends of JHCLA who are still actively mourning the loss of its founding CFO have created a fund in Ronnie's memory. Gifts to JHCLA can be made to the Ronnie Cohen Memorial Fund.

Ronnie was about keeping it real: simple, essential, providing the anchor for those he loved, making the changes in the road that life unfolded for him with grace, dignity and kindness. He left a safe and secure place for Hilda, Jay and Sandy and a Jewish Healing Center to care for those who cross a similar bridge. Ronnie, thank you for entrusting us with your care, thank you for showing your light. You left this earth a better place for having been here.

—Rabbi Carla Howard

TURN TO US WHEN...

Seeking **HOSPICE SERVICES** in life's final chapter

Yearning to find meaning and release from suffering through **SPIRITUAL COUNSELING**

Needing a full spectrum of **BEREAVEMENT SERVICES** during a time of loss

Searching for a community to meditate, to listen, to learn through **REFA'EINU HEALING SERVICES**

Illness, death and loss will touch each one of us in our lifetime, sometimes gradually and sometimes with barely any warning. Jewish Healing Center will always be there for you, to make the inconceivable bearable.

THE FAMILIES

In Their Own Words

Acceptance

When his multiple myeloma treatment became grueling, Victor, my husband of 53 years, decided to stop altogether. The oncologist referred him to JHCLA to discuss his options. Clear communication ensured that Victor knew what a decision for hospice meant—and we both understood and accepted the implications of the decision.

The change to hospice care made a big difference. Spiritual support grew more important to Victor as the weeks went by. Our church pastor visited frequently. Rabbi Carla Howard, acting as Hospice Chaplain, also held spirited discussions with my husband. Later on, as Victor grew weaker, Rabbi Howard spent more time with me, his sole family caregiver. After eight weeks of hospice, Victor died at home as he'd wished, with a smile on his face.

Victor's passing brought with it another key hospice service: handling all the immediate post-death details. That meant that I could spend the time I needed sitting with my beloved Victor and saying goodbye, not worrying about arrangements I would have to make.

Rabbi Howard has continued to be a source of support during my bereavement. At first she would just check in to answer questions and provide reassurance. Later I participated in a more structured JHCLA-sponsored support group for people grieving the end of long term marriages. Rabbi Howard's practical advice and spiritual wisdom has helped me to start living on my own again.

—Nancy Sidhu: Victor's Wife

Long and Winding Road

The long (hopefully) and winding road of life leads us all to the same destination. The final passage is often very difficult, as disease and disintegration can ravage the body and challenge the soul.

JHCLA helped shepherd Josée through this harrowing journey, coordinating medical support and providing spiritual guidance during her last two years. Chaplain Ronnie Abrams visited regularly with Josée, sitting by her side, offering love, compassion and wisdom, and when communication modalities faltered, she just held her hand. She helped Josée bear the unbearable, traversing the valley of fear, anger and rejection to reach renewed faith. We are forever grateful to Chaplain Abrams and JHCLA.

–The Stark Family: Michael, Michelle and Nicole

Dignity. Control. Peace.

These are the three words that first come to mind when our family thinks about JHCLA and how they helped us through the last months of Ronnie's life.

When his cancer became terminal, the palliative options our physicians presented to us felt both invasive and insufficient. Everything changed once we chose hospice and JHCLA.

Immediately the focus became Ronnie's comfort. JHCLA came to us and walked us through our options. Once we made our decisions, they brought us peace of mind that all of Ronnie's and our needs would be met. They were available to answer our questions, assisted with coordinating care and helped to resolve any problems we encountered. They checked in but still gave us space to be a family. They made sure that Ronnie and the rest of us were holding up from an emotional and spiritual perspective.

Throughout those final months they were there for Ronnie and for us. When the time came for funeral arrangements, JHCLA made that as easy as a thing like that can be. They guided us through the tough times. In the end, Ronnie left us peacefully and with dignity.

– Hilda Cohen: Ronnie's Wife

IN MEMORIAM

Finy Bergman

Theodore Bikel

Ricki Blustein

Abraham Brand

Esther Brenner

Maureen Clavin

Ronnie Cohen

Robert Didio

Jo Ann Eisenberg

Stuart Felman

Frederic Franklin

Marlene Garfin

Irwin Gilbert

Ruth Gluck

George Grant

Kathaline Halison

Ann Hiller

Ilyse Husovsky

Maurice Lecover

Barbara Liebling

Barbara Lipoff

Dawn Lowe

Florence Michelson

Michael Mitchell

Mathilda Pardo

Louise Perlstein

Soo Hoo Reiko

Edith Riemer

Rowena Ross

Mira Rothenberg

Leon Salter

Arnold Savrann

Phyllis Schuffler

Jim Schwartz

Carole Scott

Moshe Sever

Annabelle Shaw

Annette Sherman

Victor Sidhu

Anne Smith

Edmond Stanley

Joseé Stark

Marilyn Steinman

Russell Sun

Maya Tessler

Loene Trubkin

Michael Watson

Ed Witt

THANK YOU

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Temple Beth Am
Beth Chayim Chadashim
JQ International

Eventually all families will need the exceptional services that JHCLA provides. But we cannot do it all without your support. Please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website to make a contribution to the work of JHCLA. Thank you.

Jewish Healing Center



LOS ANGELES



Rabbi Carla Howard is the Founder and Executive Director of Los Angeles' first Jewish hospice service. She combines rabbinic ordination with a unique background of pre-medical studies, clinical work in women's medicine and midwifery and success as an entrepreneur.

Rabbi Howard is on the faculty of UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and the Academy for Jewish Religion and serves on the Bio-Ethics Committee of Santa Monica/UCLA Medical Center.

**The Center is dependent on the community which it serves
and welcomes your generosity and contributions.**

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