



# Joseph Staman Weizenbaum

MAY 27, 1933 - JUL 1, 2013



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## Joseph Staman Weizenbaum

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**R**abbi Joseph Weizenbaum, 80, died peacefully in Tucson on July 1, 2013. Always outspoken on issues of social justice and human rights, he was a rabbi and teacher for over 55 years, the last 41 of them in Tucson. He was the founder of Congregation Ner Tamid, which he led from 1993 to his retirement in 2002. Prior to that he served for 21 years as the Senior Rabbi of Temple Emanuel in Tucson. He also served as an Air Force and VA chaplain. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, he was ordained and earned a doctorate from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Rabbi Weizenbaum was an active leader in the Tucson community. While he championed many issues over the years, he was particularly proud of being the first Jewish religious leader to affiliate himself with the sanctuary movement in the 1980s that assisted Central American refugees to come to safety in the US. Drawing a parallel with his own father's European immigrant experience, he viewed such assistance as a moral and ethical obligation. He is survived by devoted wife Eileen; children David, Jon (Nancy), and Suzy; stepdaughter Melissa (Karl); grandchildren Emma, Camille, Shane, Andrea, Jordan (Marissa), and Kiley; and former wife Sharon Kahn. A Memorial Service will be held Sunday, July 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 E. River Rd. Private interment in the Congregation Ner Tamid Section of Evergreen Cemetery. Arrangements by EVERGREEN MORTUARY. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of your choice.



## Tribute Wall

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BG

**Barbara & Alan Gilbert** posted:

Tucson & the world has lost a great man. We admired Joe for his teaching & his activism. The founding of Ner Tamid and the ensuing years there were highlights of our lives.

July 28 at 5:00 PM

VR

**Valerie Randall (Rosenstein)** posted:

Rabbi Weizenbaum welcomed me in to the Jewish faith when I converted before my marriage. He performed my wedding in 1977 as well as both of my children's baby naming ceremonies. He was very much respected and admired by myself and my children. My daughter used to think his name was spelled "Wise-enbaum" because she thought he was such a wise Rabbi. I will always remember his moving sermon after the assassination of Egypt's leader Amwar Sadat. Rabbi Weizenbaum will be greatly missed, but always remembered.

July 28 at 5:00 PM

RP

**Ruth And Keith Pool** posted:

Jon, We are so sorry to hear about your loss. Your Dad sounded like a great person soemone that would have been friends with my dad. Thinking of you and your family.

July 28 at 5:00 PM

ES

**Ed Soll** posted:

Our deepest sympathies to Eileen and the family

July 28 at 5:00 PM

SC

**Steve Chrisman** posted:

My teacher and friend. Thank you.

July 28 at 5:00 PM

BR

**Burt H. Romer** posted:

May you rest in peace. Burt H. Romer

July 28 at 5:00 PM



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EL

**Edward Laber** posted:

David, It has been many years since I have seen you but I think of you often. Your father was a great man. Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. Your old friend, Ed

July 28 at 5:00 PM

LM

**Lucio Meza** posted:

My deepest condolences to the entire Weizenbaum family on your loss. Greater still & more powerful now will be the many lessons that he taught from a place of LOVE. Peace be with you.

July 28 at 5:00 PM

MM

**Mimi & Stuart Marks** posted:

Dear Eileen, Our hearts go out to you in your time of sorrow. Our warmest condolences to you and your family at this sad time. Mimi & Stuart

July 28 at 5:00 PM

KK

**Kenneth Kennon** posted:

Thank you, Joe, for your wise and generous wisdom and accompaniment on our walk toward justice. PRESENTE!!!

July 28 at 5:00 PM

LL

**Linda And Joel Levine** posted:

Our deepest sympathy...we will always remember Rabbi Joe with great joy in our hearts. Linda and Joel

July 28 at 5:00 PM

SB

**Scott Blades** posted:

Rabbi Joe was an early leader in the movement for justice and compassion in the fight against AIDS. His passion for social justice and interfaith work were legendary. He was a great teacher and leader, a blessing to me and so many others. My love goes out to Eileen and their family. --  
Scott Blades Executive Director, Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network.

July 28 at 5:00 PM



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**Nancy** posted:

We're truly sorry to hear of your loss. May the God of all comfort be with you at this time. For he truly hears our prayers and "he is healing the brokenhearted ones, and is binding up their painful spots".-Psalms 147:3

July 28 at 5:00 PM



**Sheldon Clare** posted:

My life was made fuller by Rabbi Joe.

July 28 at 5:00 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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