



# William Kugelman

MAY 5, 1924 - MAR 24, 2023



Scan to Visit



# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



## **William Kugelman**

MAY 5, 1924 - MAR 24, 2023

**W**illiam “Bill” Kugelman, 98, was born May 5, 1924 in Bedzin, Poland.

A few years after Bill’s birth, his family that included his father Joel (Sophie) Kugelman, brothers Monyick Kugelman and Joseph (Ava) Kugelman, and sister Regina (Paul) Ptasnick, moved to Sosnowiec, Poland where they had family living. There, they prospered, opening their own footwear manufacturing facility and retail shoe store.

In 1935, when Bill was just 11 years old, his father passed, and in 1941, the family was taken into the concentration camps. Over the next 4 years, Bill would be sent to 4 different concentration camps before his liberation on May 8, 1945.

In 1951, Bill immigrated to the United States, where he soon met the love of his life, Ruth. They were married on November 24, 1957 until her passing on December 13, 2003. Their 46-year marriage produced a thriving business, a daughter, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren.

After relocating his family to Tucson, Arizona in 1967, Bill and Ruth operated Zev’s Famous Brands, a chain of local shoes stores, from 1968-1985.

Bill was a strong member of his family and the community. He was firm and unwavering in his personal convictions, dedication to his family, and support of his community.

In his long retirement, he regularly traveled to schools and organizations throughout Southern Arizona and spoke about his Holocaust experiences; he encouraged future generations to remember the horrific prejudice and bigotry that he witnessed firsthand. Bill gave regularly of his time and finances to support many charitable organizations that worked to advocate for these, and other, causes that he made a focus of his life.



## Obituary

**William Kugelman**

MAY 5, 1924 - MAR 24, 2023

---

Bill was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth. Bill is survived by his daughter Annette (Alan) Miklofsky, by his grandchildren Michael (Ariel), David, and Karen “Tova,” and by his great grandchildren Emelia, Callie, and Mayley.

The funeral service will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm at Evergreen Mortuary and Cemetery (3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson, Arizona 85705), Rabbi Robert Eisen will be officiating, a longtime friend of Bill’s. Interment to follow.




In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions are encouraged to the Tucson Holocaust Museum or Congregation Anshei Israel.

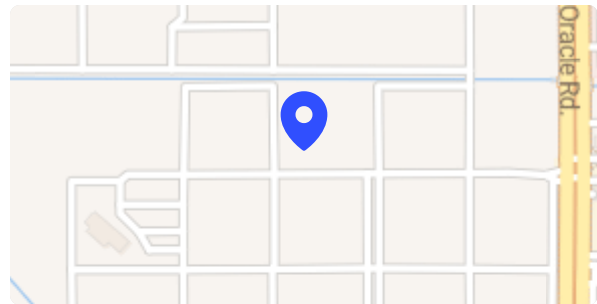


# Events




**William Kugelman**  
MAY 5, 1924 - MAR 24, 2023

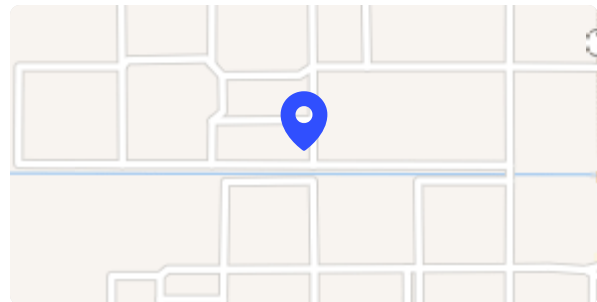
## Service

-  **Sunday**, March 26, 2023
-  1:00 AM MT
-  **Evergreen Mortuary Chapel**  
3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85705





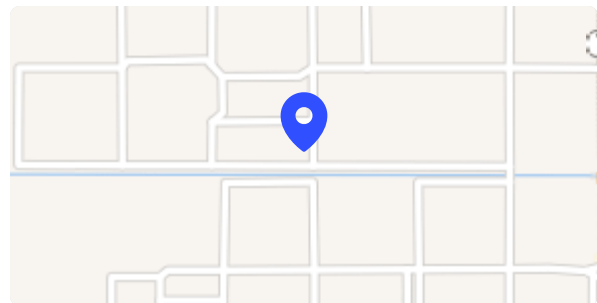
## Graveside service

-  **Sunday**, March 26, 2023
-  2:00 PM MT
-  **Evergreen Cemetery**  
3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85705



## Cemetery Details

-  **Evergreen Cemetery**  
3015 North Oracle Road, Tucson AZ 85705
-  **520-257-4831**





## Tribute Wall

**William Kugelman**

MAY 5, 1924 - MAR 24, 2023

CZ

**Carol Zucker** posted:

I met Bill when I staffed the 2012 March of the Living trip, specifically traveling with teens from Tuscon, Las Vegas, San Diego, and Silicon Valley. MOTL always tried to send a Survivor with each relatively small group of teens. Bill's Holocaust experiences occurred at the same age as our teens. Bill dealt so patiently with a group of teenagers, including some with no real knowledge of the Holocaust or Jewish history. His talks with them, often while he and 1 or 2 kids walked together through a concentration camp, so effectively communicated his own life and experiences that the teens, including my granddaughter, understood well his own life, Polish Jewish history, and the Holocaust accurately and inculcate his experiences. We went to his family's apartment and the shopping street in Sosnowiecz where his family had a business. My own discussions with Bill took me through his life and history of his family and his immigrant experience. I have to say that I learned more from Bill than from any other single person. Plus, he was so nice and had a sense of humor. Even though our trip was 12 years ago, my talks with his are still fresh and will stay with me forever. May his Memory be a Blessing. David, he has left you a wonderful legacy.

April 20 at 6:55 AM

DE

**Deena** lit a candle in honor of William.

Mr Kugelman would always talk to me at the JCC. He had the ability to make everyone feel special and I will never forget that. His words of wisdom will live on in my memory. The world has lost a teacher, a father, husband and brother, among the other titles that he graciously held. I know now he is with so many that have missed him for a long time, however Tucson is a bit sadder.



March 31 at 7:57 AM



**Mike Soto** posted:

Bill and I met years ago at our community. We had a great relationship as we shared stories together about our lives and careers. My admiration for him as a holocaust survivor is only surpassed by humble demeanor. He was a wonderful man that I am fortunate enough to call my friend. God bless you William, with love ❤️ Mike and Marissa Soto

March 29 at 8:40 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

