



Melvin Tanenbaum

JAN 28, 2021



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Melvin Tanenbaum

JAN 28, 2021

Melvin Tanenbaum, age 97 of Palm Beach Gardens, FL passed away on January 28, 2021. Melvin is survived by his wife of 68 years, Eleanor; his son Alan (Jill) Tanenbaum, and daughters Jane (Bill) Johnston and Cathy (Keith) Simon. Also surviving are his grandchildren Jessica (Mike), Rebecca (Jason), Scott, Andrew, and Chelsea; and his two great-grandchildren Ethan and Hannah. A funeral service will be held on Monday February 1, 2021 at Beth Israel Memorial Chapel, 11115 Jog Road, Boynton Beach, FL 33437 beginning at 12:15 PM. Entombment will follow at Eternal Light Memorial Gardens, Boynton Beach, FL. Rabbi Marc Labowitz will officiate. Family suggests donations in Melvin's memory be made to Friends of Israel Defense Forces, www.FIDF.org.



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

JK

John Patrick King posted:

I'm sorry to lean of the passing of Melvin he was a great man and he had a very positive influence on all who knew him, I was your young neighbor in Plainview. I won't ever forget him and a few times I got to go to Hill & Dale summer day camp. Singing that song crossing the Hudson River on the George Washington Bridge. I visited Uncle Tom in New Rochelle a few times. For a kid those summer day camps were a blast!

October 27 at 2:14 PM

AN

Anthony Napolitano posted:

He was our "Uncle Mel". Thank you for sharing him with us. Our warmest condolences to his family. He will be forever linked with the best part of our lives. Love, Anthony, John, and Gloria Napolitano

February 5 at 6:20 PM

SB

Suzie Brodin Becker posted:

I have so many wonderful memories of Mel. My mom Shirley Brodin was the school secretary at OB Grade School from 1958-1973. She and Mel hit it off right away and Mel affectionately called her Shoil the Poil! Mel and Ellie, Charlie and Rose Harwood, Lou and Rose Ferrara and my mom and dad oftentimes would get together at my house on Saturday nights for many fun times. When my mom retired, Mel put himself in charge of her retirement party and wrote a hilarious song about her. My mom kept it as a treasure and now I have it. In fifth grade, I "hit the lottery" when I learned Mel was going to be my teacher. There are many wonderful memories of my best school year ever, such as painting a map of the United States on the playground asphalt and performing our school play. Mel was an outstanding teacher and one of the most loving and caring people I have ever encountered. My sincerest condolences to Mel's family. Love, Suzie Brodin Becker

February 2 at 5:36 PM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

BH

Bruce Huggins lit a candle in honor of Melvin.



Oh Uncle Mel. Our heart is broken knowing we won't hear your voice but the memories of your love sustain us all. They say Mother Teresa was a saint but for me, in my lifetime, no other man is as deserving as Mel Tanenbaum to be called a saint. I loved Mel. He made me feel loved as well. I am a better man due to the good fortune of being loved by Mel Tanenbaum. I said to him often and as recent as a week or so ago that he is blessed as is his family. But it is all of us that are blessed. Mel blessed anyone that had the pleasure of knowing him and he touched so many to their soul. He will be greatly missed. To his family that I love, May G_d comfort you among the other mourners of Zion and Jerusalem. To those that believe we will see each other again it is written: But your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise— let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy— your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead. Isaiah 26:19. May the sweet memories created over a lifetime of love stay with you all for generations to come.

January 29 at 11:05 AM

EJ

Eugene Johnston posted:

The Johnstons of Sayville send our sincere condolences to Ellie, our sister in law/Aunt Jane, and the entire Tannenbaum Family. Mel was a special man who brought joy to us all. He showed everybody the way just be being himself. His true talent was making each and every person feeling important by providing a genuine complement to every one of us. "Grandpa Mel", as the Johnston's kids called him, lit up every room he walked into. One of the GREATs from the GREATEST generation.

February 1 at 5:46 PM

MB

Marianna Ballantine posted:

Good morning...Thank you for letting us share this sad time with you even though we can't be there in person....it means a lot as he and all of you mean a lot to myself and my family. You all and Mt. Tom are the best memories anyone can have. Love, Marianna.

February 1 at 8:41 AM

LG

Lori Goldstein posted:

My heart goes out to all of the Tanenbaum family. Mel was quite a guy. You can see that by the outpouring of love here for him. He lived a full and wonderful life and will always be in the hearts of all who knew him.

February 1 at 8:32 AM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

ZB

Zina Budofsky posted:

our friendship with Mel goes back 55 years. We've known him as a personal friend, a teacher to our children, someone who shared a birthday with Sy, and a warm and loving person. He will be sadly missed. we hope Ellie and we will continue that friendship.

February 1 at 8:10 AM

AN

Anthony Napolitano February 1 at 3:53 PM

He was our "Uncle Mel". Thank you for sharing him with us. Our warmest condolences to his family. He will be forever linked with the best part of our lives.Sincerely,Anthony, John, and Gloria Napolitano

PB

Patrick Baldasare posted:

While I have not met Mel face-to-face, person-to-person, I am quite sure that I have "met him" through the soul and character that he imparted on my dear friend, Alan. We love you my friend. You were no doubt a source of great pride for your father. You honored him so beautifully throughout his life in conversation and in deed.

February 1 at 8:00 AM

MW

Marvin Witte posted:

Mel and I were hired to teach in Plainview on the same day.we taught at Joyce Road School, where we put on shows for the community for scholarship. We both became administrators in the district, Mel and I also played tennis together for many years,,it was a beautiful friendship..he called me "Marvello" and I called him "Melvino"..with Ellie and Phoebe we spent many wonderful time together, In retirement we both moved to Eastpointe in Palm Beach Gardens, where we continue our friendship.I will never forget and will always treasure our friendship.Thank you for being my friend. Rest in peace, my life-long friend.

February 1 at 7:54 AM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

BZ

Beth (Boltuch) Zucker posted:

The Boltuch Family is deeply saddened by this news . My mom, Trudy Boltuch worked at Mt. Tom with Mel for years ... it was the happiest time of my childhood and Mel was a big part of it . He was always wonderful to me as I grew up and wanted to direct shows there in my twenties .. always supportive and Kind! I loved his magical way of talking to kids and Later in life as my husband Dave and I started our own Children's Entertainment Co. - I must say Mel's funny and loving way he had with children influenced the way We communicated with children . We learned from the Best! We will always cherish his memory. He was one of a kind . Love to Ellie and the family - Beth Zucker

February 1 at 7:36 AM

MH

Michael Haft posted:

Cousin Mel, you were the best. You always welcomed us at Mount Tom, as well as your home in Plainview.It was always so great to see you at family gatherings. I know that you and my dad always spoke on the phone over the years, even when my dad was in the hospital a couple of years ago. I hope you that the two of you, are together now, kibbutzing over the old days growing up in the Bronx. Ellie, Alan, Janie and Cathy- I am so very sorry that Mel has passed- I know that you have so many great memories of him, he lives on in all of you and your families.

February 1 at 7:06 AM

JT

Jay Tanenbaum posted:

My dear Uncle Mel, husband of Aunt Eleanor, father of Alan, Janie and Cathy may not physically be here but his legacy remains.There's really no way to put into words what a fantastic person Uncle Mel was except he definitely defined what a " Role Model To Society" is.Any positive adjective that one can think of would describe him.He will sorely be missed but as written above, his legacy as a person remains.

February 1 at 6:55 AM

BP

Barry Pearlstein shared 6 photos to the **Memories Album** album.



January 29 at 11:05 AM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

EK

Ellen Kaplan posted:

In 1958 my older sister Roberta (Bobbi) Kaplan was in his 5th grade class at Joyce Road Elementary School. She and a girl named Arian West were the most academically advanced in the class, so he requested that they both move into Mr. Witte's 6th grade class halfway through the year. But even a half year of Mr. Tanenbaum was memorable. An extraordinary teacher, he brought out the creativity and performing abilities in his students, with songs that even Bobbi's younger sisters remember! Clearly his was a life well lived. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him. Ellen (Ellie) Kaplan

February 1 at 5:00 AM

RR

Robin Rice posted:

So many ties that bind the Tanenbaum and Rosen families starting with my mom (Esther Rosen) who was Mel's student teacher lo those many years ago. My mom was also Alan's 2nd grade teacher. Alan, Jill and I went all through school together. So many memories of Mel goofing around with us yet at the same time making sure we were doing what we had to do. Always a smile, a laugh, a hug. RIP Mel. You will be missed. With love to Ellie, Alan, Jill, Rebecca, Jason, Janie, Cathy and their families. Robin+Rick Rice

January 31 at 7:36 PM

EK

Ellen Kaplan posted:

In 1958 my older sister Roberta (Bobbi) Kaplan was in his 5th grade class at Joyce Road Elementary School. She and a girl named Arian West were the most academically advanced in the class, so he requested that they both move into Mr. Witte's 6th grade class halfway through the year. But even a half year of Mr. Tanenbaum was memorable. An extraordinary teacher, he brought out the creativity and performing abilities in his students, with songs that even Bobbi's younger sisters remember! Clearly his was a life well lived. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and loved him. Ellen (Ellie) Kaplan

January 31 at 5:01 PM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

JY

John Youngs posted:

Thank God , and the Tanenbaum family , for sharing your father , husband , and son . That he taught , and inspired , so many different young people , was a visible act . Guiding others , and all who observed received a blessing . The path in life for me was a grace he could convey .Helping confidence , and character , to grow inside , with Love. Thank you , Mr. Tanenbaum , I Love you .from John Youngs

January 31 at 12:27 PM

TF

Tara Freeman posted:

"Uncle" Mel was loved by thousands of people. I looked forward to seeing him every summer morning throughout my childhood for his entertainment during amphitheatre time. He was funny, thoughtful, caring, entertaining and just a pleasure to be around. When I grew up, "Uncle" Mel was my first employer as a camp counselor and I couldn't have asked for a better boss. He has had a positive influence on so many of us and has made our lives better just by being himself. - Tara Freeman

January 31 at 12:09 PM

RC

Ronni Leizer Camhi posted:

I was fortunate enough to have Mr. T for 5th grade in 1962/63. He had such a positive impact on my life that I still talk about him to this day. He was a true gift to the teaching profession and although I didn't know him as an administrator, I sure he was equally as gifted. What did I bring with me through life? That things may not always be fair for everyone. That sometimes we need to look at the needs of the whole group rather than an individual. That we can ALL achieve some level of greatness if we apply ourselves. I will carry Ivan Itch and his adventures in my heart always. Pasta Fagiolo...Pizza Pie Mr. Tannenbaum. May your memory be a blessing.

January 31 at 10:35 AM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

LA

Liane Acito posted:

Mr Tanenbaum was not my teacher at Old Bethpage Elementary School in the 1950s , which I regretted, as did most of the other pupils who were not fortunate enough to be in his class. Our classroom was next to his, and I will always remember the fun that seemed to be taking places next door. My fondest memory of him is of his class parading around the school corridors during the period of African decolonization chanting Lamamba -- Kasa Vubu. At the time, I thought those words must have been something, to cast a spell of wonder and good humor on the school. It was only decades later, when I was reading the Poisonwood Diary, that those very names re-appeared; I finally realized the chant was about what had been transpiring in the former Belgian Congo! May Mr Tanenbaum's gentle soul rest in peace. He lives on in the hearts and minds of all those he has touched with his warmth, generosity, intellect and kindness, and we are many. My deepest condolences to your family and Mel's friends. Liane Acito

January 31 at 10:16 AM

TL

Terry Lustig posted:

As I write this, there are tears in my eyes. I was one of the lucky ones to have Mr. T as my 5th grade teacher at Old Bethpage Elementary School. The word "teacher" really did capture the true essence of this wonderful man, who nurtured and encouraged every one of us to be the best we could be. We kept in touch for many years, as he progressed in his beautiful career in education. To his family, thank you for sharing him with us. I hope your wonderful memories help you through this difficult time. May his memory be for a blessing. With love and gratitude, Terry Rattner Lustig

January 31 at 8:37 AM

GP

Gary Pellegrino posted:

Rest In Peace Mell have many memories of Mel. He was our next door neighbor. I remember growing up as a kid on those hot summer evenings when everyone was out watching us play stickball, kickball, punchball and football in the street. Mel was always outside cheering us on. Boy those days were special.

January 31 at 7:30 AM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

RY

Robin Young posted:

oh my.... I am thrown back decades by this news.. Mel Tanenbaum ..Mr. T..what is it in the Talmud? " every blade of grass has an angel whispering.. grow.. grow" Mr. T was our angel.. our Peter Pan.. he was our teacher at Old Bethpage Elementary school on Long Island in the 1950's but as powerful as the word teacher is that hardly describes his impact.. I'm realizing now many of our parents were still traumatized by WW2, and the polio epidemic of '55, my siblings and I had it, brother John spent a year at Meadowbrook, and here came this lightening bolt of hope and light.. Mr T made us sing, and find our voices.. literally.. he "discovered" brother John, who'd become an actor named John Savage in films like Hair and Deerhunter, but John, or Johnny boy as Mr. T called him, started singing Climb Every Mountain for Mr T. in 5th grade. Oh we loved him so much! Was so glad Cathy arranged for us to talk to him on his 90th. Thank you ..for sharing him with so many generations of kids. Thank you, Mr T.Robin Young(s) and the entire Youngs family.

January 30 at 5:46 AM

BK

Barry David Kluger posted:

The highlight of visiting my mom at Parkway School was getting to see Mel. always funny, welcoming, and just a dear wonderful man. His humor, combined with his genuine interest in people, made him one of the people who has stood out in my memory. He will be missed.

January 30 at 5:31 AM

CI

Carla Ferrante-Iannarelli posted:

May your kind and beautiful soul rest in eternal peace. Your light though it will always shine will truly be missed here on earth by many. "Uncle Mel", may you make certain that the sun continues to shine at Mount Tom. Thanks for being such an integral part of my summer childhood. My deepest condolences to your family and friends. With admiration and love, Carla Ferrante-Iannarelli

January 29 at 5:09 PM



Tribute Wall

Melvin Tanenbaum

JZ

John Zoidis shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My thoughts about Mel Tanenbaum... God rewarded this amazing man with a loving wife, a loving family, the ability to make dreams come true, the love of children from all walks of life as well as all who knew him, the gift of being able to connect with children of all ages, an uncanny ability to recognize good people and bring them together, and a long and wonderful life. Mel was generous, kind, smart, funny, insightful, inspirational, trusting, and loyal. He was a school principal and he founded Mt. Tom School and Day Camp (as well as its predecessor Hill 'n' Dale). In my youth he was a mentor, and throughout the rest of my life he was a friend. Rest in peace, Uncle Mel.

January 29 at 11:05 AM



RE

Rebecca shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

To the legend, the mensch, the glue of the Tanenbaum family: my grandpa Mel. I will never forget your goofy Donald Duck voice, your dances, your Yiddish, your tales from your childhood, and of course...your stories. You would come up with the most unbelievable tales to tell me as a kid. I can still hear your raspy voice now and most definitely, your laugh. I remember our trips around the lake in your red golf cart and you pointing out all the birds along the way, and our times at the tennis court and driving range. You loved your kids and grandkids so much and it showed. You will be missed by so many but that's of course a testament to the type of person you were and how many people you touched. Love you forever grandpa.

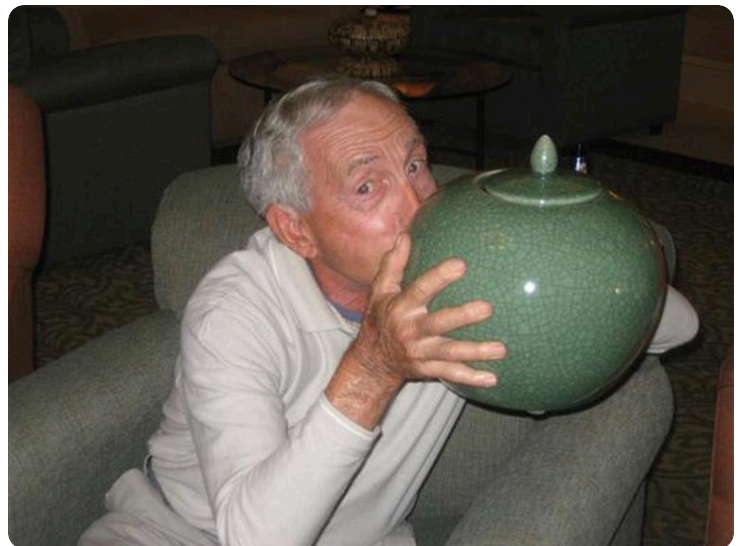
January 29 at 11:05 AM

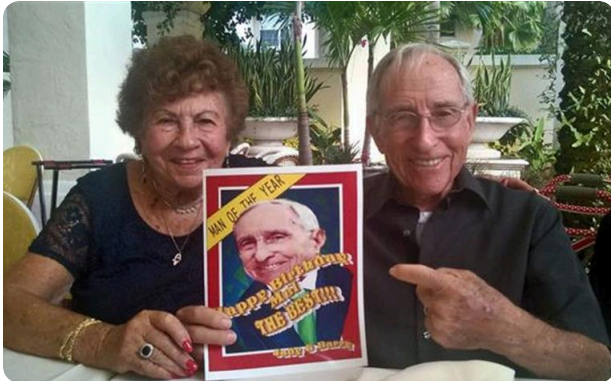




Barry Pearlstein shared 6 photos to the **Memories Album** album.

February 1 at 6:10 AM

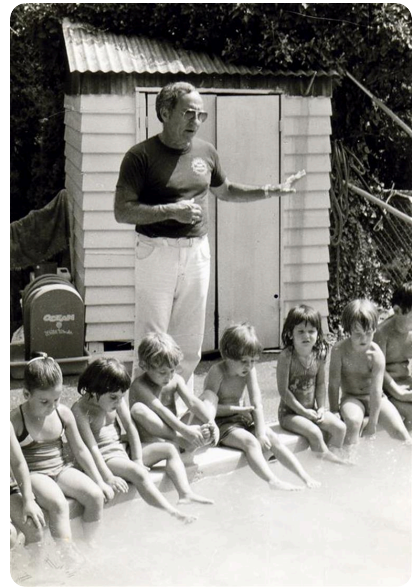
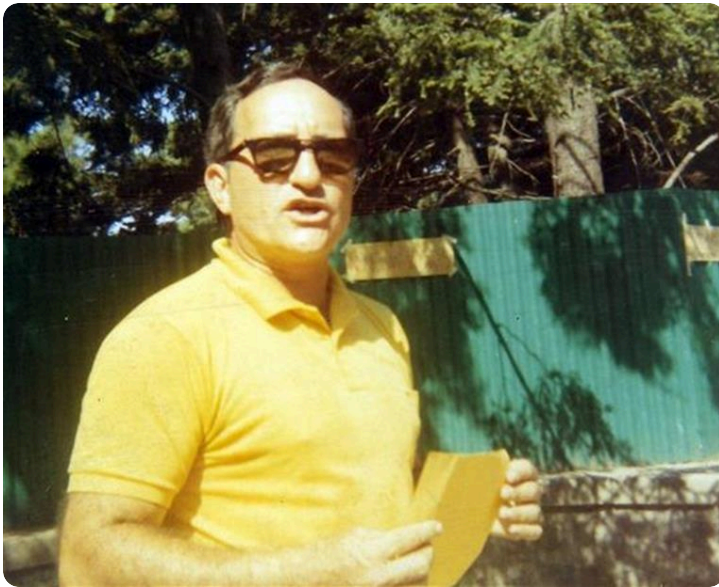






John Zoidis shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 29 at 2:41 PM





Rebecca shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

January 29 at 11:05 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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