

# Uriel J. Goldsmith



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Joseph W. Sorce Funeral Home Inc - West Nyack

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West Nyack, New York

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## Uriel Goldsmith Obituary

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Joseph W. Sorce Funeral Home Inc - West Nyack on Apr. 21, 2023.

Uriel J. Goldsmith ("Uri") died on April 20, 2022 at the age of 87. Uri was born on February 11, 1936 in Hanover, Germany. Along with his parents, Ruth and Herman Goldsmith (of blessed memory), Uri immigrated to the United States, arriving on Labor Day 1941; they traveled on the S.S. Mouzinho, the last ship to leave Europe legally for the USA. Uri embraced his new country as he became very active in the Boy Scouts of America and later in the Army ROTC, while studying Chemistry at City College of New York. He later became a lieutenant in the Army Reserve. Despite having no sons of his own, Uri remained an active volunteer with the BSA until the 1980s.

Uri spent his career as an educator and even after his retirement from Ramapo High School as chair of the science department, he remained involved in organizations (including The Emile Fraternity, STANYS and the Science Olympiad) which promote science education. Uri taught for many years at Bronx High School of Science and was very proud of his students' academic achievements. In addition to his chemistry degree, Uri earned a master's degree from CCNY as well as one from the University of New Hampshire.

Uri married Barbara Custer (of blessed memory) on Christmas Eve 1959 and they shared over 60 years together. They met while students at City College of New York. They started their life together in the Bronx and spent just short of 5 decades in their home in [New City, NY](#). In 2015, they moved together to The Bristal Assisted Living in Woodcliff Lake. Uri was the proud, albeit strict, parent to Monica Colvin and Dr. Toby Goldsmith. Until the end, one look from Uri could stop his girls in their tracks. He was a stern disciplinarian, but his daughters knew that he loved them dearly and he was proud of their accomplishments.

Uri took every opportunity to educate his daughters. In the mid-1970s Uri, in his role as dean of the High School, confiscated a bag of marijuana from a student. He brought it home to his family so they would know what pot looked like. Monica held back her tears as she watched the stash circle the flushed toilet. The family believes that there was divine intervention that Uri passed on 420!

Uri was an excellent cook and Toby shared the kitchen with her father. She recalls telling Uri that the water was boiling. He responded by asking her what was the water doing? Only when Toby stated, "The vapor pressure is equal to the atmospheric pressure," did Uri smile and reply, "Good," and he continued cooking.

Toby credits her father for her career in medicine. After she received a D at the end of her first semester of college Uri chided her, "You have no critical thinking skills. Why are we sending you to an Ivy League College?" Toby then felt the need to "show him" and that was the first step in her path to becoming "Dr. Goldsmith."

For over a decade, Uri battled with Alzheimer's disease, an irony which those who knew him best recognized. While Uri's faculties increasingly failed him, he continued to recognize his beloved family and on occasion shared with them stories of his youth. Among the most poignant was his recollection of the deadly Hartford circus fire of 1944 from which he and his cousin escaped. For those who are interested, you can hear Uri tell his story here: [https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/on-air/as-seen-on/circus-fire-survivor-recalls-the-tragedy\\_hartford/124350/](https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/on-air/as-seen-on/circus-fire-survivor-recalls-the-tragedy_hartford/124350/)

Uri had his strong likes and opinions. He was a fan of the Mets and Giants, much to the chagrin of his sister-in-law. He made a ritual of reading the Sunday NY times and completing the puzzle (in pen). Uri was adventurous. He would borrow new music from the local library, sharing with all in earshot, the songs of whales, and improvisational jazz. Because of his eclectic tastes Monica and Toby were exposed to the music of The Weavers, Tom Lehrer, PDQ Bach, Claude Bolling, and Allan Sherman. Uri was open to any new foods and only rejected the canned pickled caterpillars because they had spoiled! Despite his gruff exterior, Uri had a sweet and romantic side, as documented in sweet notes that he wrote to his wife and the flowers he would bring to Sheila B. to grace her seder table. He also was an amazing caretaker- tending to his girls when they were ill and demanding medical professionals provide what his girls needed.

Uri was predeceased by his parents, his wife Barbara, and his sister-in-law Victoria Slater. He is survived by his daughters, Monica Colvin of [Orangeburg, NY](#) and Toby Goldsmith (Robert Mandelbaum) of Atlanta GA; his beautiful granddaughter, Kimberly (Jon) Bloodgood, his three grandsons, Travis (Ashley) Colvin, Reid Shapira and Samuel Shapira; great grandchildren, Alyson, Kaitlynn, Kaleb, Dakota and Mason; sister-in-law, Carol (Michael) Kanthal, brother-in-law Peter Slater; and friends-who-were-essentially-family Michael and Marlene Seeliger and their children, and Stephen Ucko, as well as his

extended family and life-long friends.

The family would like to express their appreciation to Uri's primary caregiver, Beneta M., for the love and care she showed to Uri for last five years.

Family and friends may pay their respects on Sunday, April 23, 2023 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm; Rabbi Pernick will conduct services at 1:15 pm at the Joseph W. Sorce Funeral Home, 728 West Nyack Road, [West Nyack, NY](#).

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Uri's memory to the Alzheimer's Foundation. And the next time you boil water, remember that the vapor pressure is equal to the atmospheric pressure.



To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Uriel, please visit our floral store.

To plant trees in memory, please visit the [Sympathy Store](#).

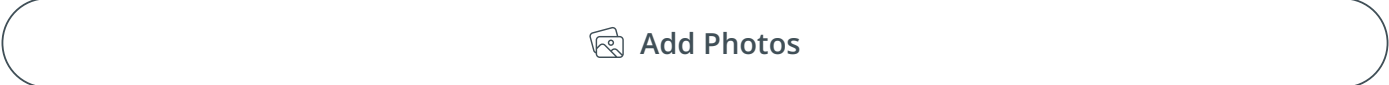
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## Memories and Condolences for Uriel Goldsmith

What is your first memory of Uriel?

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