



Gayle S. Shapiro

October 26, 1952 - January 29, 2026

Gayle Susan Shapiro passed away on January 29, 2026 at the age of 73.

Born on October 26th, 1952 in Chicago, IL, Gayle was the beloved daughter of Robert and Esther Joseph, z”l, and the sister of Martin (Nancy, z”l) Joseph, z”l, and Fern (Larry) Kane. Gayle attended Mather High School and graduated from The University of Illinois at Chicago Circle with a degree in Computer Science.

Gayle met the love of her life, her husband Barry, through their involvement in the United Synagogue Youth movement. They married during Gayle’s senior year of college and made Aliyah to Israel in 1977 where their eldest Danya (Matt Becker) was born. The family moved back to Chicago in 1980 as Gayle desired to be closer to her sister Fern, mother-in-law Ruth Shapiro, z”l, and sister-in-law Robbie Schonfeld, all of whom she dearly adored.

Gayle and Barry later moved to Highland Park, IL to raise Danya. Their son Ari (Abigail) and daughter Karen Brieske (Morgan Pepper) soon followed. Gayle’s community blossomed in Highland Park where she formed lifelong friendships, helped establish multiple chavurah groups, and created a Jewish home filled with love, laughter, and lots of desserts. Gayle and Barry’s Shabbat table and guest rooms were always open to friends and family, hosting a multitude of loved ones from near and far.

Gayle built her career in computer systems, working at Illinois Bell, Northern Trust Bank, the Great Lakes Naval Station, and other organizations before shifting gears and joining the crew at Trader Joe's. Once she retired, Gayle kept busy with a variety of organizational and artistic projects for family and friends. Her legacy lives on in the chuppot, tallis bags, baby blankets, and more that she lovingly crafted for her family and her community.

One of Gayle's most beloved roles was as a mother, extending far beyond her own 3 children. She was an extra mom to the friends of her kids, the store mom at Trader Joe's, and a foster mom to the numerous children who were welcomed into the Shapiro home over many years. Gayle and Barry were honored by the Jewish Children's Bureau of Metropolitan Chicago as "Foster Parents of the Year" for their efforts to open their home and their hearts to those in need.

Gayle took great nachas in the achievements and successes of her four grandchildren: Ruth and Ziv Becker and Reuben and Elly Shapiro. She loved living near her grandkids, and afternoon baking projects, collaborating on gigantic LEGO creations, and weekly Shabbat dinners were highlights for Grandma and grandkids alike.

The funeral service will be held at Congregation Shaarey Tikvah on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. with interment at Mount Olive Cemetery. To view the service online, please visit <https://boxcast.tv/view/funeral-of-gayle-shapiro-c0brexyqjesj3cbomrfb>. Password: 1026.

Shiva will be held at 24150 Wimbledon Rd., Shaker Heights, OH on Sunday, February 1st after the funeral until 8:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, February 2nd -5th from 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either Habonim Dror Camp Tavor or the Joseph and Florence Mandel Jewish Day School.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Olive Cemetery

27855 Aurora Road
Solon, OH 44139

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 1. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Congregation Shaarey Tikvah
26811 Fairmount Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122

Burial

FEB 1. 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Mt. Olive Cemetery
27855 Aurora Road
Solon, OH 44139

Tribute Wall

JB

“ *Gayna and I are so indebted and grateful to Gayle and Barry for taking us in, housing us, and taking care of us when our son was a patient for an extended period at the Cleveland Clinic. We were even able to stay in their home after they left on vacation! Her memory will be a blessing.*

Jeff Bassin - February 19 at 11:11 AM

GB

“ *Barry, I remember the first of many times we hosted you and Gayle in our home when you came to visit Matt and Danya and Baby Ruthie in Doylestown. Gayle was a bustling bundle of activity and purpose. She couldn't wait to see them and you were up and out of the house at what seemed like the crack of dawn! She kindly brought a hostess gift of a beautiful set of wooden coasters from Trader Joe's. I still have those lovely coasters sitting on my end table and I think of her with affection whenever I see them.*

Gail Becker - February 03 at 08:36 AM

RC

“ *Condolences and strength to all of you. Gayle was Gayle and one of a kind as everyone can attest, I'm sure. A smile comes to my face when I remember our interactions and for that I am ever grateful.*

Raminder Chadha - February 02 at 03:28 PM

GB

“ I miss my foerver friend, Gayle. We have been there for each other for many years. I remember when she met Barry. What a beshert. We traded mom tips and frustrations. Gayle and Barry consoled me during my rough times. I loved our trip to Portugal for much needed friend time.
I treasure our friendship. You are truly a blessing.

Gloria Brimm - February 02 at 03:28 PM

ME

“ Gayle has always been so kind and generous. Whenever we were in town, she was always quick to offer a home-cooked meal, a place to stay, use of her car, literally anything we needed to make life a little easier. Her loss is tremendous, but she will live on through her kindness and the example that she set. Much love, Micah

Micah Ebbe - February 01 at 01:29 PM

IF

“ Barry and Family, What a beautiful service (that I assume Gayle organized) and tribute to our our wonderful friend, Gayle, and your soulmate since USY days. Please know that Elise and I are there for you always, and look forward to a trip to Cleveland soon, so we can share our memories, and maybe some Ice Cream and German Chocolate Cake, with you and the family. Ira Frost

Ira Frost - February 01 at 12:47 PM