



## Erwin Zimmermann

December 22, 1948 - April 2, 2020

Erwin Zimmermann,

Of Mequon, the gentlest of giants, was a mensch to all. We lost him Thursday, April 2, 2020, at the age of 71. Erwin is survived by his greatest treasures, his wife Marina of 26 years (together 32) who he adored (and made sure everyone knew it), their boys who brought him endless happiness: Julius, Zachary, and Solomon, and his older brother Josef (Karen) with whom he could spend endless hours. A “brother” to his sisters-in-law, Karen and Lena Beresten, and an extraordinary uncle to Anna (Allan), Nathan, Mari, and Kate (Michael), he helped whoever needed it, which often meant a long drive to a favorite restaurant. Erwin was devoted to his parents (Rose and Salomon) who preceded him in death and to his in-laws, Irina and Leo Beresten, who survive him and for whom he loved and cared for as if his own. His family was everything to him. Steve and Masha Wagner, Lola Rosenblatt, Ani Magid, and Fred Berkowitz were more like brothers and sisters than cousins. Erwin was adored by his three great-nieces (Lexi, Becca, and Maggie) and was always available for a cuddle or as a fixture to climb on.

Born in Linz, Austria to Holocaust survivors, Erwin immigrated to the United States with his family at age 8. He attended Washington High School and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Erwin became an accountant and financial advisor which allowed him to pursue his many other passions ranging from racquetball, art, gardening, and pastries. In 1998 Erwin

opened Le Parve, a kosher bakery in Glendale, Wisconsin. Erwin's donuts and brownies are unmatched to this day.

Never afraid to show emotion, Erwin was the first to cry with joy at any simcha. Erwin's toasts were unforgettable. His humor, sincerity and his adoration of Marina was legendary. He treated her like a queen and the feeling was mutual.

To know Erwin was to know a caring that knew no bounds, a stubbornness that could be infuriating yet always admirable. It was to know wit and a sense of humor that left you laughing until your cheeks hurt, and gregariousness that made time fly when you were with him.

The pride Erwin had for his family radiated from him. It was a light that made everything and every day brighter for everyone he touched. What a beautiful life.

Private services due to current circumstances.

# Cemetery Details

## **Beth Hamedrosh Hagodel Cemetery**

134 S. Dana Ct.  
Milwaukee, WI 53214

# Tribute Wall



“ *Erwin Zimmermann*

October 06, 2023 at 01:40 PM



“ *I've known Erwin for so many years. He always did our taxes and from the day we met him he became a dear dear friend. Erwin's kindness was boundless. He was so caring and helpful to 2 of our relatives who were well into their nineties. I'm just learning of his passing and I can only say that my heart is heavy.*

**Doug and Sally Evans** - April 24, 2020 at 03:07 PM



“ *Gerardo Lujan & Family purchased the With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Erwin Zimmermann.*



**Gerardo Lujan & Family** - April 09, 2020 at 03:18 PM

JE

“ I had the honor of being one of Erwin's instructors as he began his business education venture....around 1970 or so? We became very good friends. We visited his family and in particular his father....an unforgettable experience. Always loved Erwin's style....clothes etc. were so impeccable and he knew so much about that. He worked on me for some time in that regard. He was a remarkable person and I extend my sympathies to you and your families in his passing. His obituary write up came as no surprise because he was always bigger than life...I grieve with you as you celebrate his wonderful life.

*Sincerely and with heartfelt sad thoughts. Jim Eigenfeld.*

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**jim eigenfeld** - April 07, 2020 at 12:20 PM

DH

“ What a loss Wonderful good natured friend who I knew since we were kids. I am saddened by the news. Der Obishta hit us hard. May he mingle with his judischer family

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**david heber** - April 06, 2020 at 11:18 AM

BE

“ I was so sadden to hear of the lost of my cousin Erwin. He always had a smile on his face. If he did not see you in a while when he did he may get emotional. When my sister and I moved out of Milwaukee and after my father has passed away. He was always helping my mother any way he could. I could never repay him for what he has done for her and our family. My wife Cheryl and daughter Sam send our thoughts and prayers to the entire family.  
*Benny Ertel*

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**Benny Ertel** - April 04, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ We met Erwin, Marina and their sons during their visit to Israel. My mother and Marina were childhood friends who met again after a long time. We are very glad we got to meet Erwin and his family and we enjoyed our trips together in Israel during their visit. It was clear from the first moment we met him, what a kind person, loving father and husband Erwin was. It was truly sad to hear of his passing. Our deepest Condolences to the family.

*With love,  
Julia, Dan and Michaela.*

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**Dan Shafir** - April 04, 2020 at 11:01 AM

EB

“ I met Erwin at Washington High School. Since I to, was an immigrant and struggled with adjusting he was so helpful and protective. I couldn't have had a better friend. He was a friend to all and hated when people weren't treaded fairly. I lost track of him for the many years but I instantly remembered him and his kindness. My condolences to his family, his wife, his brother and his children. The world has lost a gentle soul.

*Elisabeth Blischke*

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**Elisabeth Blischke** - April 04, 2020 at 10:07 AM



“ To think of you not being close by is very painful and yet I can clearly remember seeing your beautiful smile in my head. You were right. We were "one family" and you never treated us any differently. We grew up together, shared many wonderful times, and of course life's up and downs. To watch your beautiful wife and handsome and bright sons give you the love you deserve and so willingly gave to others was extraordinary. You will remain the light that could fill a room and you will be surely missed, my dearest Erwin.

*With all my Love,  
Ani and Jerry*

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**Ani Magid** - April 03, 2020 at 06:08 PM

FB

“ Our hearts are broken over the sudden loss of my big brother Erwin! Growing up in the same building, Erwin was my go to man. He gave me my first real bath, the lessons of which have lasted a lifetime! It was the cleanest I'd ever been! Erwin was an expert when it came to bathing. He taught me so much about life, politics and the world. He was the "coolest" guy I knew. After marrying and moving to Chicago we didn't see each other much, but every time we did the tears flowed. Erwin was so proud of me and my family and that meant the world to me. The last time I saw him was at my grandsons bar Mitzvah in December. What a surprise and as always, as soon as we hugged the tears flowed! Erwin, you will always be in my thoughts and I will always remember the special times we shared together. You were a friend, a mentor and a brother from another mother! Please watch over you wife and boys and may they be a source of light to your neshama.

*Fred & Rina Berkovits and the gang*

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**Fred Berkovits** - April 03, 2020 at 03:42 PM