



Abraham David Ainspan

July 21, 1922 - August 10, 2019

Abraham David Ainspan, age 97, passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2019 in Asheville, NC. He had spent the past fourteen years in Asheville, moving there to be near family as Anna Squire Ainspan, his wife and life partner for over 60 years, declined in health. When Anne died in 2006, Abe began to rebuild life in his new community.

Both their children, Ron Ainspan and Ellie Waters, live in Asheville. Abe and Anne had four grandchildren, Travis Waters (deceased), Jeni Tirnauer, Nesta (Korie) Coggins Kennedy and Meda Coggins Thurston. Four great grandchildren, Meira, Aurora, Arawenn and Gaius range in age from 15 to 2 and have gotten to spend much lovely family time with their great grandfather over the past several years. Making much of Abe's active lifestyle possible over the past eleven years has been Diana Mashburn as his caregiver, cheerleader and driver. Our family is grateful for all her love and support.

Abe was born in Albany, NY in 1922. His parents, Teddy and Bertha (from the Warsaw area in Poland) were in the grocery business in the 1930's and 40's. After serving in World War II, graduating college from New York University and getting married to Anne, Abe spent the bulk of his work life running a food vending business in the Capital District of New York.

When work life drew to a close, Anne and Abe moved to south Florida and spent many happy years in the Boca Raton area. There they were able to

share great times with friends from Albany who had retired to the same general vicinity.

Abe's life-long passions were family, religious community and learning. Also, love for baseball, exercise and personal fitness should not be overlooked. Throughout much of his retired life, in Florida and North Carolina, he took senior classes to enrich his education and stimulate his mind. In Asheville, he participated in the OLLI program at UNCA right up through this spring and even asked, during his last week, when fall curriculum catalog was due to come out. His enthusiasm for life never waned.

He was an active member of the Congregation Beth Ha-Tephila on North Liberty Street and an avid attendee of temple brotherhood events including, most prominently, their monthly smooze lunches.

To family all over the country, he provided much glue to maintain connections when bonds might otherwise be loosened. As people roamed or their lives changed and transitioned, he would keep us all posted as to their progress. But the postings were not just surface headlines. Abe really cared about people and his updates were as analytical as they were newsy.

We miss him and will always cherish him and our time with him. Services will be held at Congregation Beth Ha-Tephila on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 at 4:00pm with reception to follow.

Tribute Wall



“ Abraham David Ainspan

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ I am sorry for your loss. I enjoyed having Abe in my sports history classes at OLLI Asheville and answering questions he would ask at them, and will miss him. Larry Griswold

Larry Griswold - August 18, 2019 at 10:26 AM



Thank you for writing Larry. My dad loved the OLLI classes. They definitely added to his quality of life and probably contributed to his longevity. My dad was a lifelong sports fan. These OLLI classes are such a great thing for Asheville seniors.
Ellie Waters

Ellie Waters - September 01, 2019 at 07:56 AM



“ To the Family of Mr. Abraham Ainspan, I was sorry to read of the passing of Mr. Ainspan. I worked for Abe for a short time at Kwik Kafe. When He hired me I was out of work. It was in the winter and near Christmas and He and His Partner put on a lunch for us and also gave us gifts, mine being a Barbacue set of very nice cooking utensils which I still have. Abe and His Company Partner, who I can't recall His name, were very nice to work for and I appreciated the job. I would like to send my Condolences to all His Family and thank everyone for the pleasure of working for Abe at the time. Sincerely, Jack Farrell, farrelljack47@gmail.com

JOHN FARRELL SR. - August 17, 2019 at 07:48 PM

EW

Thank you so much for your condolences Jack. I wrote you a separate email, wanting to make sure you received the message. It was so heartwarming to hear your experience with dad from my over 50 years ago having made a lifelong impression.

Ellie Waters

Ellie Waters - September 01, 2019 at 08:04 AM

GB

“ *To Ron and family: Thank you for sharing Abe with us. He was a shining example of how to live a full and fulfilling life. Geneve & Jeremy Bacon*

Geneve Bacon - August 17, 2019 at 10:20 AM

SL

“ *We're so sorry to read about the passing of your dear father. We have fond memories of him in Albany and wish we could celebrate his life with you today. Sending love to all, Sheila & Ira*

Sheila Lobel - August 14, 2019 at 09:14 AM

RD

“ *Dear Ellie, Ron and family.
We were saddened to hear of Abe's passing. Our sincere condolences. We had many good times together in Albany, Montreal and Boca Raton. May your fond memories help you through these difficult times.
Love Rhoda and Brian*

Rhoda and Brian Dankner - August 13, 2019 at 10:33 AM

EB

“ I only new Abe for the last couple of years, primarily through a Wednesday evening card game. I gave him a ride to the game on a few occasions, and he would share stories from his past that I always enjoyed. He was a very interesting man, and his determination to continue to live a full life was inspiring.

Ed Brasfield - August 13, 2019 at 09:53 AM