



Esther Burstein

April 30, 1928 - February 23, 2026

Esther Burstein, aged 97, passed away at her home in North Asheville on February 23, 2026.

Esther was born in New York City, daughter of Abe and Lena Wasser and sister of Louis Wasser. She married Hyman Burstein in 1948 upon his return from service in WWII. They were together until Hy's death in 2010. They raised two children in New York before moving to Los Angeles, CA in 1971 where they started a new business. In her mid-40's, Esther embarked on a new career in the financial and insurance industry, and she was very successful. This remained a source of pride for her. Esther relocated to Asheville in 2016. She led an active life and made new friends.

Esther and her husband were generous supporters of many worthwhile causes, including funding a public school library in L.A. and endowing youth scholarships at the Asheville Jewish Community Center.

Esther was very proud of her two children, Jonathan and Laurie, three grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Esther loved to sing, dance, and bowl, and she excelled at games such as Rummikub. She was curious about the world and enjoyed reading the Sunday New York Times.

Esther is survived by her son, Jonathan Burstein (Patricia Fahie) of Wimauma, FL; and daughter, Laurie Chess (Rick) of Asheville, NC. Also surviving are granddaughters, Alice Teich and Margaret Teich; grandson, Gabe Chess; and great-grandchildren, Hassan, Abraham, Maya, Lena, and Neel.

The family extends special thanks to her devoted caregivers Tina, Autumn, Halle, and Aisha of WNC Senior Sitters.

The funeral will be held at 12:00PM on February 26th, 2026 at Congregation Beth Israel, 229 Murdock Ave., Asheville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Asheville JCC/ Burstein Education Scholarship, Congregation Beth Israel or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Lou Pollock Cemetery

North Louisiana Avenue
Asheville, NC 28806

Previous Events

Funeral Service

FEB 26. 12:00 PM (ET)

Congregation Beth Israel
229 Murdock Ave.
Asheville, NC 28804