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BENJAMIN KOVITZ OBITUARY

KOVITZ, M.D., Benjamin Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at Loma Linda University Medical Center, passed away peacefully at his home in San Bernardino on May 28, 2008, at the age of 94. Dr. Kovitz was born on December 22, 1913, in Duluth, Minnesota, and received his undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He served as Clinical Director at Columbus State Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, taught psychiatry at Ohio State University, then relocated to California as Chief of Professional Education at Patton State Hospital. He taught psychiatry at Loma Linda Medical School until the age of 90. A gifted teacher, he received several teaching awards, and outstanding students in the Department of Psychiatry are honored with an award in his name. In his final year, Dr. Kovitz saw the publication of his first book, "Humanity Against Itself: The Retreat from Reason" (Prometheus Press, 2008). The book draws on his wide-ranging interests in philosophy,



literature, psychology, and religion in addressing the individual and societal consequences of failing to face our own hidden motives. Dr. Kovitz was a member of Congregation Emanu El and Congregation Etz Hadar. He is survived by his wife, Miriam Gershman Kovitz; four children, (Sonia Kovitz, Johanna Kovitz, Deborah Kovitz Barkat, and David Kovitz); four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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