



## Alvin D. Shapiro

April 30, 1930 - July 24, 2012

Alvin Shapiro was many things: An accomplished lawyer, an avid tennis player, an opera aficionado, a devout Jew. But more than anything he was a family man. Al rose to the top of his profession in Kansas City, his adopted home. He spent 21 years as a lawyer and partner with Stinson Mag & Fizzell, then went on to open his own firm in 1980, where he represented clients such as the Kansas City Royals, Farmland, Ford and Goodyear. But through it all, he never missed a dinner with his wife and four children. Al cherished his family and knew the importance of spending time together. Or maybe he just couldn't bear not eating one of his beloved wife's amazing meals. Al always took the opportunity to compliment Patti on her cooking: "You outdid yourself, old girl," he would say. He treasured her as a best friend, a partner and a confidant. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1930, Al's father, Sam, was a grocer. His mother, Fanny, died when he was 14 years old, so he was mostly raised by his aunts, Sylvia Breen and Shirley Resnick. Fanny introduced young Al to one of his greatest passions, opera, when he was 11, taking him to the San Carlo Opera to see Pagliacci. After she died he continued to go, mostly enjoying the spectacle from the standing room section. With his older brother Murray, Al shared a love of baseball, often playing in the schoolyard from 8:00 in the morning until 6:00 at night. The two brothers went regularly to Dodgers games, scrounging around for the 55-cent entry fee. Al hated the Yankees, but couldn't resist the allure of Joe DiMaggio. When he moved to Kansas City, Al switched his allegiance to the Royals, holding season tickets right behind home plate for many years. He sat with his adoring children, Peter, Julia, Molly and Tony, effortlessly calling each and every pitch and sneaking sips from a smuggled-in flask. After graduating high school, Al worked as a Western Union bike delivery boy. Next to the office was a horse betting establishment, which is where he became interested in racing. "I just liked the milieu," said Al. "And I lost a little money." His first time out of New York was when he decided to attend college at the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he studied journalism and developed a love of English literature, particularly Charles Dickens. There he also developed another of his great loves: bourbon. "In my junior year—I can remember it like yesterday—there was a bar on East 8th Street in Columbia," said Al. "I had a bourbon and soda, and it was the most delicious thing I ever had. I thought, 'Where has this been all my life?'" After graduating

college, Al joined the Navy in 1951 and served during the Korean War. While he told his children all he did was swab the decks and chip paint, the truth was that he worked as a journalist, ran a photo lab, acted as a French interpreter, and sailed to Europe as a staff member for a four-star admiral. Upon discharge, Al went to Yale Law School with the help of the GI bill and a scholarship. He would have graduated No. 1 in his class had he not come down with a case of mono during the final month of school, which caused him to graduate No. 2 instead. He was later recruited by Stinson Mag, “The only big firm in Kansas City that would hire a Jew,” he explained. There, Al was immediately entrusted with some of the firm’s biggest cases. He was known as “the common sense guy.” So after all the arguing and debating, inevitably the room full of lawyers would turn to him and ask: “OK, Al, what do you say?” According to Alvin, “It was just a question of getting things done.” A lot happened during Al Shapiro’s first 30 years, but without a doubt, May 2, 1959, was the most important day of his life. That evening he went to dinner at his colleague Mort Rosenberg’s home, where he met Renee Rosenberg’s cousin, Patti Swaden. Patti had come down to Kansas City with her mother, Jesse, from their home in St. Paul, Minn. She had a boyfriend and no interest in meeting someone new. But Al was so smitten, he simply wouldn’t take “No” for an answer. After dinner he whisked her away for a late night concert in Loose Park. The next day he took her to La Louisiane on Main. He drove her to the airport when it was time to go, and promised he would take a train to visit her the next weekend. Six months later, they were married on November 8, 1959. “I never had anyone pursue me the way Pop did,” said Patti. “Without any reservation, without any fears of being rebuffed. Just completely coming out with feelings that I could tell were genuine.” Alvin Shapiro died of Parkinson’s disease on July 24, 2012. He was at home until the end, surrounded by his Opera News, Blood Horse and New Yorker magazines; his attentive caregivers; his wonderful friends; and his loving wife, children and grandchildren. Alvin is survived by Patti, his wife of 52 years; his children: Peter Shapiro (Amy); Julia Shapiro (Tom Linafelt); Molly Shapiro; Tony Shapiro (Kelly); and nine grandchildren. Funeral services will take place at The Louis Memorial Chapel, 6830 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, on Thursday, July 26, at 1:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy.

# Tribute Wall



“ Alvin D. Shapiro

January 29, 2023 at 11:08 AM



“ Alvin D. Shapiro

January 29, 2023 at 09:42 AM



“ Our sincerest condolences.  
Our thoughts are with you and the wonderful remembrances of Al.##imported-  
begin##Judy & Bevan Marvy##imported-end##

July 30, 2012 at 04:34 PM



“ Patty & Family--  
Linda and I were saddened by the news of Al's death. His spirit for life and zest  
for doing will always be a source of beautiful memory and as a blessing as well. I  
will always remember him in this way.  
Rabbi Alan Cohen##imported-begin##Linda & Rabbi Alan Cohen##imported-  
end##

July 29, 2012 at 11:32 PM



“ Dear Patti, Peter, Julia, Molly and Tony,

What a loss to the community! And how much greater a loss it must be to each of  
you.

We can only pray to the God we and you worship in different ways that He will in  
time comfort you and re-inbue you with Al's delight in life.

Milt and Dorothy##imported-begin##Milton and Dorothy Clarke##imported-end##

July 28, 2012 at 12:49 PM



“ Dear Tony and family,  
I'm so sorry for the loss of your father. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time!  
Love,  
Jennifer, Chad, Dylan and Camryn Markey###imported-begin##Jennifer Markey###imported-end##

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July 28, 2012 at 12:29 AM



“ Dear Shapiro Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you all. With deepest sympathy,  
  
Debbie and Brian Haith###imported-begin##Debbie Kershenbaum Haith###imported-end##

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July 27, 2012 at 07:01 PM



“ Dear Patti, Peter, Julia, Molly and Tony and all of your families, I am so sorry to hear about your Al or your Pop. I have so many fond memories of your dad and good times at your house with all of you. May his memory be for a blessing###imported-begin##Jessica Rudnick-Kaseff###imported-end##

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July 27, 2012 at 05:33 PM



“ Dear Patti, Peter, Julia, Molly and Tony,  
Just read the most beautiful obituary and of your great loss. I did not know of Al's illness and pray the trauma of recent time will soon fade leaving only wonderful memories.  
I had a fall and am not really ambulatory but wanted you all to know that I am thinking of you.  
In sincere sympathy,  
Patsy Dunn ShanbergNK8E###imported-begin##patsy dunn shanberg###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 04:41 PM



“ Patti,  
Benne and I sent our heartfelt thoughts to you and your family at this difficult time.###imported-begin##Barbara and Benne Kusnetzky###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 04:00 PM



“ Thinking of the Shapiro Family. Sending our deepest sympathies. We are honored to have cared for such a wonderful man.

Our sincere condolences,

Kami Sjoberg, Kaylene Kern, Becky Coleman, & Judy Sjoberg

- Right at Home###imported-begin###Kami, Kaylene, Judy and Becky###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 03:13 PM



“ To Peter and all the Shapiros, so sad and sorry to hear of your dad's death. He was such a fixture back when we were kids, and I remember him fondly. Thinking of you all.###imported-begin###Judy Firestone Singer###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 03:11 PM



“ Patti, Tony, Peter, Molly and Julia,  
We were very saddened to learn about Al and will remember him fondly. We always enjoy seeing a Shapiro at the restaurant.  
Mike, Sherry, Casey, Elaine and the gang at Stroud's###imported-begin###Your Friends from Stoud's###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 02:14 PM



“ Peter, Julia and the entire Shapiro family-  
Your father was an incredible man. I had the pleasure of working with him while I was clerking for Judge Stevens immediately after law school and learned so much from watching him in the courtroom--but especially from watching how he treated others outside the courtroom. He truly knew what mattered most in life--and made sure that he practiced his profession in a way that honored his beliefs. I know you all know that already--but I hope that the reminder--and your own memories of the many years you shared--will be a comfort in the days and weeks ahead.###imported-begin###Karen Glickstein###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 02:06 PM



“ We are sorry for you loss. Our sympathy and condolences go out to the entire family.  
Larry and Randi###imported-begin###Larry and Randi ###imported-end##

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July 26, 2012 at 12:53 PM



“ Dear Patti and family...  
*I was so sorry to hear of Al's passing. What a wonderful man he was...and what a legacy he leaves. He will always remain a very special part of my memories. Please know you in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Much Love,  
Alana###imported-begin##Alana Shniderman Greenstein###imported-end##*

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July 26, 2012 at 11:15 AM



“ dear patti and family...  
*our prayer is for courage and strength  
for your family during this most difficult time.*

*cindy and bill noon###imported-begin##cindy weintraub noon###imported-end##*

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July 26, 2012 at 11:13 AM



“ Tony,  
*I enjoyed reading about your dad and I'm so sorry for your loss. He was a good man! I know this because you're a good man. Prayers and condolences to you and your family.*

*Sean###imported-begin##Sean McMahon###imported-end##*

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July 26, 2012 at 10:55 AM



“ Patti,  
*Reading about Al's passing brought back many good memories of the time we were together at Stinson, Mag. I particularly remember the light in his eyes when he came back from first meeting you and told me that he had met this most wonderful girl. He was obviously correct on that score. You and he were a wonderful partnership. How fortunate your children are to have such parents. Unhappily, I have a commitment today with a granddaughter and her guest from France, so I will be unable to attend the service. Please be assured, however, that you and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Warmest wishes and deepest sympathy.*

*Howard Mick###imported-begin##Howard Mick###imported-end##*

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July 26, 2012 at 10:49 AM



“ To the entire Shapiro family-I am so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.##imported-begin##Michael Puritz##imported-end##

July 26, 2012 at 10:20 AM



“ Dear Shapiro Family,

Our deepest sympathies are with you. We are away from K.C. now but have you in our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Lisa and Ken##imported-begin##Lisa and Ken Schifman##imported-end##

July 26, 2012 at 01:12 AM



“ Dear Tony (and everyone else in the family). I have so many fond childhood memories of spending time at your house, where I learned to appreciate, among other things, the Beatles, Citizen Kane, and a great chocolate chip cookie. Your father always made a strong impression on me as loving and wise man, the kind of dad I myself would have wanted -- and that I also hope to be. The truth is, I'm not sure I quite measure up. But his memory lives on with me and will always. Much love,  
Mark##imported-begin##Mark Holthoff##imported-end##

July 25, 2012 at 10:42 PM



“ Dearest Patti, Peter, Julia, Molly & Tony,

I was so saddened to hear the news of Al's death. My memories of him and all of you are sweet and forever part of me. My mom always had a soft spot for Al, feeling a kinship with him as a fellow New Yorker living in KC. Please accept my deepest condolences. You are in my prayers.

With love,

Laura##imported-begin##Laura Solomon Mardiks##imported-end##

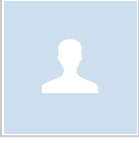
July 25, 2012 at 06:48 PM



“ My dear Patti, Peter, Julia, Molly and Tony,  
So very sorry to hear your sad news of Al's passing. He will be greatly missed by  
your beautiful, dear family and his many friends. Much love, Jacquie Brave,  
Chicago###imported-begin###Jacquie Brave###imported-end##

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July 25, 2012 at 04:56 PM



“ Dearest Patti, Peter, Tony, Molly and Julia,

We are away from KC but thinking of you as we heard the sad news of Al's  
passing. May your memories of him sustain you now at this saddest of times and  
be for a blessing always!

Love, Leslie and Mark###imported-begin###mark eisemann & leslie  
mark###imported-end##

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July 25, 2012 at 03:22 PM