



Leonard Arnowitz

JUL 20, 1923 - NOV 29, 2016



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



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Leonard Arnowitz, who spent more than 20 years working for NASA and helped launch America's Space Program, passed away on Tuesday at the age of 93. Born in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1923, Arnowitz was selected by the United States Army to take part in specialized training programs that sent him to the University of New Hampshire and University of Connecticut for courses in electrical engineering. During that time, he spent time at the Bell Telephone Laboratories to work on development of microwave communication technologies for the Army. Following the World War II, Arnowitz completed his electrical engineering studies, earning a Bachelor's of Science from the Newark College of Engineering. He later went on to earn a Master's of Electrical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. After college, his skillset took him to the Glenn L. Martin Company in Baltimore, Maryland. "I remember... my parents were very concerned when I told them I wanted to become an engineer because they thought there was just no way a Jewish person could work in that field," Arnowitz said in a 1990 interview about his life. He was recruited in 1957 to work on Project Vanguard, which was America's first foray into space exploration. That project transitioned into a role at NASA when the Agency was first conceived. He remained there for more than 20 years. His last position at NASA was Division Chief of the Special Payloads Division where he managed the Sounding Rocket Division for Goddard Space Flight Center. Arnowitz said taking part in the frantic Space Race of the late '50s, which included the decision to move his young family to Cape Canaveral, Fla., was irresistible. "I was asked [if I wanted] to come down and be chief engineer at the Vanguard Program... and I felt strongly that I did," he recalled. "Mostly, it was the opportunity of doing something for the first time [that] really attracted me." His only hesitation was the lack of Jewish community there at the time, so he took it upon himself to help build one. Arnowitz helped construct the first synagogue in Cape Canaveral, Beth Shalom, by hand. He



served as the Congregation's president in 1959. From there, he moved his family to Baltimore, Maryland where he was once involved in building the Jewish community including the inaugural run of the American Jewish Festival. After The Challenger disaster in 1986, Arnowitz moved to Israel and worked for Israel Aircraft Industries. He eventually returned to the United States and opened his own company, launching disease-research experiments into space on NASA's shuttles. Arnowitz retired to Aventura, Fla., with his wife in 2008. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Shirley, his sons Edward, Gary and Mitchell Arnowitz, his daughter Joan Nataf, his daughters-in-law Jo Ann and Janet Arnowitz and his son-in-law Yoram Nataf, his grandchildren Rena (Craig) Levy, Yonatan (Rachel), Daniella, Binyamin, Elisheva and Elan Arnowitz, Ilana (David) Drescher, Leora (Eyal) Soffer, Karen and Sharon Nataf, his great grandchildren Idan, Ari & Leila Levy, Gabriella Drescher and Daniel Arnowitz. Chapel service 12 pm Friday, Dec. 2, 2016 at Levitt Weinstein/Beth David Chapel, 3201 N. 72 Ave., Hollywood, FL 33024 (305) 932-2700.

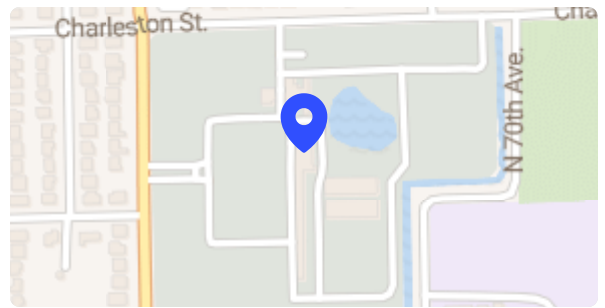


Chapel Service

 **Friday**, December 2, 2016

 12:00 PM ET

 **Levitt Weinstein/Beth David Memorial Chapel**
3201 North 72nd Avenue, Hollywood FL 33024





Tribute Wall

Leonard Arnowitz

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DU

Dudi lit a candle in honor of Leonard.

So sorry to hear only now about Len. In 1988 he was the Project Manager of "Hornets to Space". He called me "My Express Card" as we were planning to go to Cape Canaveral to send real hornets to space. I stayed in Israel but the group sent the cage with a lot of hornets to space by the Shuttle. Was very kind to all the stuff here. The project was the research of Prof. Ishay Tel Aviv University to study gravity sensing organs in insects. My job also was attaching microphones to the honeycomb where the hornets put the eggs to hatch in space with no gravity. After the space travel rumors said Prof. Ishay spoiled ether liquid on the floor at the lab. Will remember Len.



January 1 at 2:41 AM

MS

Mark Steiner posted:

Len was Division Chief when I was hired at NASA oh so many years ago. As I was a new hire (as opposed to being one of the Spare Tires, for those of you who remember), I did not interact too often with someone that high up in the organization. But when I did I found him to be very personable as well as competent. His ideas for making space more accessible through unique uses of the Space Shuttle - as well as his ability to make them happen - were instrumental for a large segment of the science and education community. He was an interesting man in interesting times, and a good man. I am happy that I was part of what he helped make happen and that I had the honor of working on his team. Mark Steiner Retired NASA and part of the Spare Tire group now

January 23 at 10:37 AM



SK

Semion Kizhner posted:

I met Leonard (Len) in late autumn of 1980 when I came to work at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt Maryland. I was commuting there from Reisterstown, some 50 miles away, and this 100 miles round trip was not sustainable. I was a contractor with Lockheed at the time But then I met Len at work and joined his carpool. For the next 16 years and until Len's retirement, I was spending some 3 hours a day next to Len in the car in endless discussions on space-related technical matters. It didn't take me long to realize that Len was an extraordinary talented men. In 1986 Len recommended me for civil service that changed my life for the next 30 years. Len was a NASA Division Chief and his word had great power. I never told Len that I was a Holocaust survivor and Len never told me about his explorations at Cape Canaveral and the Synagogue. Len was a great Mensch and a genius. The Attached Shuttle Payload Division building still stands, his numerous hired young people still work at Goddard and the two magnolia trees he planted in front of the building still bloom two weeks ahead of all other trees. I do not know what else to say. I am profoundly saddened now, but immensely fortunate to meet Len in this world. Until we meet again, here is the poem written many years ago at Cape Canaveral, I do now know why. It is for Len now Fallen Sequoia The giant has fallen again And many are coming to see. But others are rising to Thee, Like man and like Joshua tree. And try to remember Thy rhymes In Thy spaces and times. Semion Kizhner Cape Canaveral June 15 1994

January 11 at 9:56 AM

MA

Mitch Arnowitz January 23 at 1:16 PM

Thank you so much for your kind words and memories Semion. mitch/joan/gary/eddie arnowitz

PC

P'nina Campbell posted:

Dear Arnowitz family, Another Cohen here. I cannot think of a time when you, Shirley, Len, Eddie, Gary, Mitchell, and Joan Beth were not part of my consciousness. We were so connected, geographically, occupationally (our fathers), spiritually (that synagogue in Satellite Beach, Florida). When that area was hardly anything but Banana River, Patrick AFB, and palmetto-and-cactus-lined beach, you lived nearby, Eddie and I were in the same classroom, the only Jews. Then, and always afterwards, whenever Lenny would call my father, no matter what mood he was in, no matter whether he was sick or not, the sound of joy in my father's voice when he acknowledged who was on the phone was unmistakable. He always had that ability, to bring such pleasure to my father and all of us. Such a mensch!! I am glad I was able to know him all these years, that is, at least 60 of my 65 years. May his memory be a blessing!! P'nina Cohen Campbell Rockville, Maryland

December 2 at 5:19 AM



Bronna Cohen Bodenstein posted:

Dear Arnowitz Family, We heard the news about Len with great sadness. We Cohens always considered him (and all of you!) to be a part of our family. Len and Dad shared so many experiences, including, but not limited to, founding that synagogue in Florida, working together during the early years of the space program, and socializing with our two families; and I know how much Dad loved and respected him. I particularly remember Dad telling me about a special phone call he received from Len. Len was instrumental in helping Israel successfully launch its first space satellite. He and Dad worked together launching the first U.S. space satellite back in the late 1950s. It was decided at the time that they would announce the historic launch as successful only after the satellite finished its first complete orbit. When the Israeli satellite was launched, Len made sure that it successfully made its first orbit before the accomplishment was announced to the world. At that historic moment for Israel (and probably an emotional one for Len), Len thought of Dad and called him from the control room to share about it. That call meant so much to Dad. May his memory be for a blessing. Bronna Cohen Bodenstein Baltimore

December 1 at 9:05 AM



Dudi January 1 at 2:46 AM

I know that. The first Israeli satellite that Len was watching and investigating.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Leonard by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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