



## Philip Starr

June 19, 2021

Philip Starr, born June 28, 1935 in Brooklyn, NY and a resident of Homestead Village, Lancaster, died on Saturday, June 19, 2021. He was the son of William and Martha Starr who taught him sign language as his first language since they were both deaf. His parents, brother, Irving Starr, and sister, Susan Greenberg, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife, Rhea, and three children, Sonya, Michael, and Aviva; three daughters-in-law, Ilyse Kramer, Barbara Starr, and Sherry Samuels; and seven grandchildren: Luigi, Victor, and Rodney Starr-Kramer; Sara and Wendy Starr, Shifra Afik (Gal Afik); and Miriam Sage Starr Samuels.

Phil graduated from Jefferson High School, Brooklyn, New York and Brooklyn College. He earned his master's degree in Social Work at Western Reserve University in 1959. He was a social worker in Cleveland, Ohio before becoming Assistant Director of Social Work Research at Family Services of Connecticut. In 1974, he became the Director of Social Services at the Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic. After nine years in that position, he became Executive Director of SouthEast Lancaster Health Center (now Union Community Care). He then became Director of Jewish Family Services before retiring.

Phil co-authored 5 books and numerous professional articles. Phil and Rhea,

proud of their Jewish heritage, were members of Temple Beth El. Later, they joined Congregation Shaarai Shomayim. Phil served on the Boards of Directors of both Temples. Phil also was on the Board of Directors of Jewish Family Services. In 2018, at the age of 83, he celebrated his second Bar Mitzvah. For many years, he delivered food for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, which he helped found.

He was a lifelong fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers (not to be confused with the LA Dodgers), and a lifelong proud liberal Democrat. He considered Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Pete Seeger as his role models. Phil was elected to the Lancaster School Board. And twice served as a delegate to the National Democratic Convention.

Among his many honors, Phil was named Social Worker of the Year by both the Connecticut and Pennsylvania National Associations of Social Workers. He also received the Crispus Attucks Essence of Humanity Awardee by the Community Action Program; Dr. Harry C. Robinson Senior Humanitarian Award; NAACP Adult Service Award; JFS of Lancaster Award for 50 years of commitment to the community; Congregant of the Year by Congregation Shaarai Shomayim; Andy Yerman Award of the Men's Club of Shaarai Shomayim.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Union Community Care, Central PA Food Bank, Jewish Family Services of Lancaster or Congregation Shaarai Shomayim.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Phil's Funeral Service at Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, 75 E. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with Rabbi Jack Paskoff officiating. Interment to follow at Congregation Shaarai Shomayim Cemetery.

For those who cannot attend in person, please attend by zoom: <https://us02w eb.zoom.us/j/85219673867?pwd=RnJETGs1SGZLR0FXaVBub0hNRDJvUT0 9> Meeting ID: 852 1967 3867 Passcode: Shaarai75. 1(312) 626-6799.

#### New Jersey

Saturday—Gathering from 7-9, service at 7:30

Sunday—Visitation from 1-4, gathering from 7-9, service at 7:30

#### Lancaster

Wednesday from 6:30-9 with service at 7

Thursday and Sunday--visitation from 1-4 in apartment 130, Shiva from 6:30-9, service at 7

Monday--Visitation from 1-4, Shiva from 7:00-9, service at 7:30.

Shiva is at 1800 Village Circle, Homestead. Wednesday and Thursday in the Glassford Room. Sunday and Monday in the Chapel.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

JUN **23**. 10:00 AM (ET)

Congregation Shaarai Shomayim  
75 East James Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602

# Tribute Wall



“ Philip Starr

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ patriarch of a great lancaster family. proud to have known him a little. my best to Sonya, my class mate, and her family. - Hobie Crystle

Hobie Crystle - June 30, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ Dear Rhea,  
I was sorry to read of Phil's passing. Years ago I worked with him at Southeast Lancaster Health Services and appreciated the work he did there and his agreeable way of treating his staff. It was a very positive experience for me.  
Also I knew of his involvement on the School Board, and realize what a commitment that was/is. He was really dedicated to the city.  
Thanks for his efforts.

My best wishes to you and your family,  
Midge Crystle

Marjorie Crystle - June 29, 2021 at 03:04 PM



“ Phil was a constant friend of mine for years. I remember numerous lunches and discussions of the days events. Because of our ages, we lost track during Covid. I am sorry we never got a chance to renew our lunches. Rest In Peace, Phil. Love and appreciation to your family.

Dick Richard - June 27, 2021 at 08:57 AM

JY

“ My husband Marc and I enjoyed several seders at the home of Sonya and Ilyse when Phil and Rhea attended. We remember Phil as a man of wit and intellect, with broad knowledge and a warm heart. May his memory be a blessing.

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**Judy Young** - June 24, 2021 at 05:19 PM

SR

“ Rhea, Michael. Sonya and Aviva,  
Deepest condolences. Phil was an inspiration to us as well as to so many people. His memory will be a blessing to many.

Love,  
Sandy and Scott Rabin

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**Sandy Rabin** - June 23, 2021 at 09:14 AM



To the Starr family, Our heartfelt sympathy to you and yours. Phil's passing will be a loss to the Lancaster community. Fondly Ron and Barbara Mable.

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**Barbara Mable** - June 24, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ I learned of his passing from Lancaster Democrats. I did not know him, but it is clear he was a lifelong mensch and a tremendous credit to his communities. Condolences to the family. May his memory be a blessing. ---Anonymous Lancastrian and Jewish Democrat.

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**Jackie Sternberg** - June 22, 2021 at 09:05 PM

BL

“ Dear Rhea and Family,

*I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your husband and father. Phil was such a positive influence on the community, I'm not sure how the void will be filled.*

*Bette Landis*

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**Bette Landis** - June 22, 2021 at 02:03 PM

TE

“ *Phill was a dear friend and support to me. I loved studying with him and always respected both his knowledge and his humanity. I will miss him greatly. My sincere condolences go out to Rhea and family. May his memory be a blessing!*

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**Tama Sue Etra** - June 22, 2021 at 01:52 PM

NN

“ *Dear Rhea and family,*  
*Phil was a great community leader and his passion was contagious. He touched the lives of so many of us and I was so grateful for his support and friendship. He loved his family so dearly and completely. I know he will be missed.*

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**Nancy Stover Neff** - June 22, 2021 at 12:40 PM

LZ

“ Phil:  
*I remember you from the Lancaster cleft palate clinic in Lancaster,pa on lime street. I am so sorry to see you go. But God will give you rest.*  
Levi Zimmerman  
Ephrata,pa.  
Limestonepit101@gmail.com

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**levi Zimmerman** - June 22, 2021 at 10:46 AM

MH

“ *What a wonderful life! Phil touched so many and was never afraid of a challenge. Phil initiated the long laborious Lancaster Township transition to democratic when he ran for Township Supervisor back in the late 80's. I worked on his campaign and learned so much. While the campaign was unsuccessful, many saw what could be done. Thanks Phil for all you did and the things you started.*

*Molly Henderson*

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**Molly Henderson** - June 22, 2021 at 09:29 AM

BK

“ *Phil was a good friend. He had lots of energy as he expressed through words and action his commitment to his family, community, friends, community, people and justice. I remember his enthusiastic calls to let us know he'd received another donation to the summer reading program for children in the Blue Hills neighborhood. I used to tease him that he waited for me to reach the top of the ladder painting the house to call with the good news. He was serious about his commitments but full of laughs as well. We are grateful for Phil and Rhea's welcoming us when we moved into the neighborhood and the good times we had with them. We will miss Phil but keep him in our heart.. Bill Kennedy*

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**Bill Kennedy** - June 21, 2021 at 10:00 PM

CK

“ I went with Phil to Boston to the McGovern Commission hearing. I have always remembered him saying that we need to restore "Government of the people, by the people and for the people" from its' drift to Government of the People, by the elected officials, for the wealthy. It is more true than ever after 2016 to 2020. Phil was right then and remained right throughout his life. May we all try to carry on his legacy. Char Kennedy

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**Char Kennedy** - June 21, 2021 at 08:59 PM