



Dr. Bernard J. Goitein

July 7, 1950 - August 2, 2025

Dr. Bernard J. Goitein, 75, Professor Emeritus, Bradley University, died at OSF St. Francis, Peoria, Illinois, after a brief illness, 2 August 2025.

Dr. Goitein was born in Queens, New York City, 7 July 1950, the son of Dr. Lionel Goitein and his wife Rachael Hahn Goitein-Galperin. He attended New York schools, and after moving to Israel as a teenager with his mother and younger sister, he lived in Jerusalem and graduated from Hebrew University High School. Bernie remained in Israel after high school, attended Hebrew University and graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology. In 1975, after two wars and many adventures, Bernie returned to the United States, where he happily spent the rest of his life.

Bernie was a proud graduate of the University of Michigan, where he earned his PhD in psychology in 1981. While a PhD student, he studied organizational behavior and decision making and was an assistant study director at the university's Institute for Social Research's (ISR) Survey Research Center, where he worked on national Quality of Employment Surveys. The experience served him well. After graduation, Dr. Goitein accepted a position at Bradley University, where he taught business management and was director of Bradley's Center for Business and Economic

Research. For many years, his often-quoted Consumer Confidence surveys reliably measured the health of the central Illinois economy with economic indicators that accurately predicted fluctuations in metro-Peoria's prosperity.

Goitein is survived by his wife, Patricia (Ostler) Goitein, sons, Zachary Goitein, of Peoria, and Daniel (Sarah) Goitein of Barrington, IL., and daughter, Annie (James) Prince of Boise, Idaho; and five grandchildren: Isabelle and Olivia Goitein of Barrington, and Felix, Esther, and Samuel Prince of Boise, Idaho. He is also survived by his brother, Eli Goitein of Los Angeles, CA, and sisters, Estelle Goitein Halevi of Paris, France, and Meriam Goitein Haringman of Jerusalem, Israel.

Bernie was devoted to his family and his community. His family was the center of his life. The Goiteins lived in Peoria's West Bluff, on Columbia Terrace near Bradley, for 44 years. He served as president of the Uplands Residential Assoc., and was a longtime member of the West Bluff Council. He served on the Peoria Transportation Commission with a particular interest in alleviating West Bluff traffic issues. He supported numerous improvement projects that have improved the appearance and stability of the Uplands and the West Bluff, including the Western Avenue Greenway and the Uplands Boulevard Gardens. After the loss of the Uplands' historic statue of Christopher Columbus, he vigorously advocated for an appropriate and significant replacement – which is now being designed and built by acclaimed Peoria sculptor Preston Jackson.

Peoria, the West Bluff, and the Uplands have lost a good friend in Bernie, and his family has lost a beloved father, grandfather, and brother.

There will be a private family memorial at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Bernie would ask that you practice Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and offer Tzedakah (charity/righteous giving).

Tribute Wall



“ I will miss Bernie. I was pleased to serve with him on the West Bluff Council for many years and always appreciated his keen insights and good humor. My condolences to his family!

Conrad Stinnett - August 07, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ I appreciate Bernie's service over the years in the Uplands neighborhood and the West Bluff in general. I would regularly see him voluntarily picking up the litter along Columbia Terrace -- a very humble and huge effort to make the neighborhood look good -- always thinking of others ahead of himself. I've enjoyed working with him on the West Bluff Council as well, and will truly miss him and his efforts. My condolences to his family and close friends.

C. J. Summers - August 07, 2025 at 03:46 PM



“ I enjoyed Bernie as a long time colleague and friend. Condolences to his family members.

ed Sattler - August 07, 2025 at 02:18 PM



“ Bernie was a truly good soul, kind and gentle, and an advocate for good causes. A great colleague at Bradley University. Our condolences to his wife, Pat, and family. Sandra Perry and Michael Woods

Sandra Perry - August 07, 2025 at 12:31 PM

HD

“ Rest peacefully, beloved Bernie, and rise majestically. Let light perpetual shine upon you, through God's grace and mercy. You remain in my heart and bank of fond memories. Beloved Pat and family, let faith, family, friends, food, and fond memories lift your hearts. With compassion, love, prayers, Father Henry Doyle

Henry L Doyle - August 07, 2025 at 06:49 AM

CS

Pat, Zach, Daniel, and Annie,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May Angels' wings surround you... May the love of family and friends support you...may prayers lift you up...and may memories make your heart smile. Love, Connie Sinn

CONNIE Jo SINN - August 07, 2025 at 01:36 PM



We will all miss Bernie in the Uplands. We are so sorry for your loss.

Matt Carter - August 07, 2025 at 02:08 PM

CW

So sorry to see this. I will miss our wonderful conversations mostly in the alley. Bernie was definitely a pillar in the Uplands and we will miss him dearly. Condolences to Pat, Zach, Daniel and Annie

connie Wright - August 07, 2025 at 02:19 PM

CG

Dr. Goitein cared deeply about our City and Nation. He was a learned Professor and a pillar within our Peoria and Bradley Community. Godspeed to Dr. Goitein and my deepest condolences to his wife Pat and his entire family.

Charles V. Grayeb - August 07, 2025 at 05:02 PM

MW

Bwrie and his family have been neighbors and friends for many years. His concern and activism for the neighborhood and the city have inspired and led me to take a more active part in the life of the community. I will miss his inspirational conversations, often in the street, on his way to or from his work at Bradley. I share my sorrow with his family and all who knew and admired him.

Martha Willi

Martha Willi - August 08, 2025 at 08:57 AM