



# Gary Joel Salzinger

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6
<b>Media</b> .....	Page 32



## **Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

**G**ary Salzinger, 54, passed away on May 1, 2021. Beloved brother of Lisa (Patrick) Martel of Solon and the late Michael (Laura Fox) Salzinger of Twinsburg; loving uncle of Laura, Rebecca, Jennifer, David, and Melissa Martel and Alex Salzinger.

Gary was born on April 11, 1967, to the late Alvin and the late Nancy (nee Smith) Salzinger in Cleveland, Ohio. Gary graduated from Cleveland Heights High School in 1985 and received his bachelor's degree in Accounting from Cleveland State University.

Gary was an IT Configuration Analyst at CVS Health. He also worked as a statistician for the Cleveland Browns, the former Cleveland Crunch professional soccer team, and several local high school sports teams. Gary created a powerful Microsoft Excel program that performed many calculations and provided valuable data to track the game statistics. He was extremely proud of this incredible program and loved to answer questions about it.

Gary loved to volunteer. He was a Big Brother in the Jewish Big Brother Big Sister program for over 20 years. He had 5 Little Brothers in the program. Gary received the Best Jewish Big Brother Award 2 years. He was also very active in volunteering activities at The Temple-Tifereth Israel and enjoyed ushering at Jewish services.

Gary loved music and was especially interested in Jewish music. He played the violin in his high school and college orchestras, and he enjoyed singing. He was looking forward to joining the Temple-Tifereth Israel choir when the COVID-19 pandemic ended.

Gary adored his family and loved spending time with them. Gary loved sports and enjoyed sharing this passion with nephews David and Alex, who also loved sports. He enjoyed watching family-friendly old sitcoms and movies with his nieces and nephews. Gary loved to play board games and was a huge fan of backgammon. One



## Obituary

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

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of his favorite games to play was Connect 4. He loved to teach children how to play it, and he would teach them little tricks to help them improve.

Gary always liked to exercise regularly. He especially enjoyed bicycling with friends.

The service will be available on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 11:00 AM via live-stream at the following link: [bit.ly/TTTI-Chapel](https://bit.ly/TTTI-Chapel)

There will be no visitation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contributions can be made in Gary's memory to The Temple-Tifereth Israel.



# Events

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

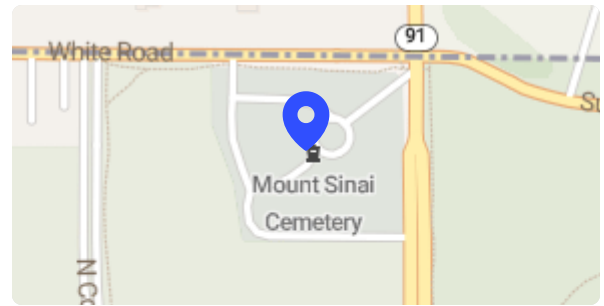
APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

## Cemetery Details



**Mount Sinai Cemetery**

6576 White Road, Mayfield Village OH 44143





## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**David Sindell** sent a Cheeseboard Complete to the Salzinger family.



May 8 at 2:32 AM



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**David Sindell** posted:

I was best friends with Gary as a teenager. I met Gary at Wiley Junior High School in the late 1970's. We would hang out almost every day after school. I remember vividly going to Gary's house which was a short bike ride from my house. We played basketball and formed a basketball team named the Devils 5. I remember Gary was so proud to be able to invite me to his Bar Mitzvah. I was honored to be amongst his "best friends" at the time. In the early 1980's I left University Heights, went to high school and then lived most of my adult life in New York until I moved to California and outside of the US. I lost touch with Gary for many years until we found each other on Facebook some 5-6 years ago. I never had met Gary again until last August. For some reason (I know now why) ,I felt a strong urge to see Gary on my last visit to Ohio. I was determined and so was he. We both drove about 2-3 hours downstate to meet up with another friend, Howard Blecher from that same era. We talked basically all afternoon about our lives and old times. I could believe how many details that I had forgotten, that Gary remembered. I was blown away by his memory. We were planning to get together soon on my next visit to the Cleveland area. I am in great shock and I cannot believe he is gone. I watched the streaming from the temple service and I learned so much about Gary and his life for the 40 years that I hadn't seen him. I'm not surprised how much he was loved by so many people. RIP my friend. I won't forget you. Here is a pic from our last meeting in August of 2020.

May 8 at 2:27 AM



**David Sindell** May 9 at 3:55 AM

Lisa. You have also inherited Gary's amazing memory. That's amazing you remember all of that although I'm guessing Gary must have talked about that a couple of times . I have three sons two of whom attend Western Reserve Academy in Hudson. I would really like the opportunity to meet you again and meet your family . Gary's passing is all the more reason to rekindle lost connections since every day we are here is precious. I'll be in Cleveland in august . Please e mail me at sindell@swlgpc.com so I have your info and make sure to reach out to you on my next visit.



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 11:02 AM

David, I remember that Gary used to talk about you ALL THE TIME when we were growing up. He loved riding his bike to your house, too, and it was near Canterbury. I think I once tagged along, as well. You guys used to have basketball practice at your house after school, and you had quite a team... the Devils 5. I think you even had T-shirts made up, if I am not mistaken. I think I remember your team playing a game at your house against the Tucker 76ers and I was there, but I don't remember who won. I think that in addition to you and Gary, Jon Romano and his brothers might have been on your team, and they were your neighbors. I also remember your sister, Deborah. I am glad that you were invited to Gary's Bar Mitzvah. I remember that Gary did a great job. You were DEFINITELY among his "best friends". I am so glad that you reconnected on Facebook, and that you were able to meet with Gary and Howard Blecher over the summer. Gary was really excited about this. We had known Howard for MANY years, since his mom was friends with my mom and uncle years before we were born. Seeing both of you again meant a lot to Gary. He was always very nostalgic, and we both remember many



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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



details from our past. I am glad that technology allowed the service to be live-streamed, and the service was archived through the temple, so others can see it in the future, too. Thank you for being my brother's friend. Your friendship meant the world to him! --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



**David Sindell** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.



May 8 at 2:27 AM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 10:44 AM

David, thank you so much for sharing this picture! I remember you and Howard very well. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



**Rick Fishman** posted:

Gary was a fellow 'Big' in the Jewish Big Brothers / Big Sisters Association. He always came up to me and we chatted about sports and other things at the events that we both attended. He was very kind..... and for all of us in the JBBBSA, he will be missed very much. Rick Fishman

May 7 at 12:31 PM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 10:41 AM

Rick, thank you for sharing your memory. Gary loved being involved in JBBBSA. I am really glad that he talked with you about sports. He certainly knew this topic well! Thank you for your condolences. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**Jeff Weinberg** posted:

I have many fond memories of Gary when we attended Jewish Single events together many years ago. I remember laughing with him at Hilarities comedy club, miniature golf, board games, dinners, a Cleveland Crunch game and other fun activities. I fondly remember the many impersonations of famous people that he enjoyed making. Gary was a true mensch! He always had a smile on his face, was fun to talk to and cared about so many people. I was very impressed about all the chesed he did that Lisa and her family spoke about during the service yesterday such as bringing soup to his friends when they were sick and being a BIG brother to 5 little kids. I was honored to have been friends with him! Everyone spoke beautifully at the service yesterday and it has inspired me to be a better listener and look out for the underdog just like he always did! May Lisa and her family be comforted by the memories of all the good he did in this world. He will truly be missed!

May 7 at 7:16 AM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 10:38 AM

Jeff, thank you for mentioning all of those wonderful memories. I remember also participating in all of those events you mentioned with Gary and Michael, and we had some really wonderful times! I loved that we all had the same group of friends. Some other things that stand out in my mind are Karaoke and bowling. Of course, there were the Marsol Block Parties where Tom would call out the BINGO numbers led dances with all of the older ladies. (Remember the Macarena and the Electric Slide?) Gary's impressions were hilarious, and I loved how he would laugh when he realized how much people enjoyed and appreciated his impressions. Those were such wonderful, happy memories. It is so nice that you remember all of these happy times, too. Gary was an incredible kind person, and I feel so lucky to have had him in my life. You have always shared Gary's qualities of being kind, sensitive, and caring about others. I feel sad that Gary's time with us had to end so early. I will treasure the happy memories. Thank you again for your condolences. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



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**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

LJ

**Laura Jaffe** posted:

Lisa and Pat, we want to express our deepest sympathies to you and your family. Michael and I often crossed paths with Gary as we walked in the neighborhood, or at the community center, and Gary always had such a warm greeting, most recently just a few days before his passing. Our son and Gary share the same birthdate. This year Gary took special care to wish our son a happy birthday on Facebook with the comment "kind of neat that we share the same birthday." I loved Lisa's story about his birthday with your family. Gary was a very special person and he will be greatly missed. Laura & Michael Jaffe

May 6 at 5:02 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 10:13 AM

Laura and Michael, thank you for sharing this with me. Laura, our families go way back, since our parents knew each other before we were even born. I remember when you, Gary, and I were all in the same Hebrew class at Akiva many years ago. I'm sure that Gary really loved talking with you when you ran into each other on neighborhood walks or at the Solon Community Center. Small world that one of your sons was also born on April 11th. Gary touched many people's lives in many different ways. Thank you for your condolences. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

KK

**Kathy And Peter Klein** posted:

We met Gary at a mutual friend's house initially, but then became closer when he worked with the Cleveland Crunch. As season ticket holders, we saw him at every game. He was always welcoming, as well as a walking encyclopedia of player biographies and stats. He was so kind to my children, assisting them in getting autographs from their favorite players & letting them know he was there to help. We will miss his smile & caring personality. He was truly without guile and always modeled chesed. We will miss him, but treasure the memories of a true mensch. BDE

May 5 at 11:09 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 10:03 AM

Kathy and Peter, Gary certainly was a walking encyclopedia of player biographies and statistics! I am glad that Gary would see you regularly at the soccer games and that he would look out for your kids. He certainly was a wonderful man. I am really happy that you were able to get to know him, too. Thank you for sharing your memories. He was a true mensch.



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**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**Tiffany Kahn** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. Am so happy I was able to meet and spend time with him a few years ago. He truly was a gentleman and so, so kind. While I'm so sorry for those he left behind, I find peace knowing he is with his brother, parents, and extended family that passed before him. Till we meet again, Gary!

May 5 at 7:45 PM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 9:50 AM

Tiffany, thank you for your lovely message. We enjoyed meeting you again a few years ago and spending time with you, as well. I think it is wonderful that you were traveling to different cities to learn more about the family history. I am glad that we were able to provide at least a small piece of the puzzle, and that you had the opportunity to do research at The Cleveland Institute of Music. I remember your grandmother, Wally, and her sister, Alice. I think I remember you visiting Cleveland with her once, and I remember you wearing denim overalls. We loved our family visits to California, and we enjoyed seeing relatives there. Gary was an incredible person and a wonderful brother. He was really special and had so many wonderful qualities. I am very glad I got to spend a lot of time with him over the years and that he was so close to me, my husband and kids. Thank you again for taking the time to share your memories. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**Elaine Best** posted:

To Gary's Family, My deepest sympathy for your loss. I am so sad and heartbroken learning of Gary's tragic passing. I had the pleasure of working with him and supervised several of his matches during my years at JBBBSA. Gary was a very unique Big. He was particularly wonderful with our younger children. I remember he used to keep his board games including his connect four in the trunk of his car ....you never know when there was time for a game! He looked for activities that would be helpful in developing skills and critical thinking in his Littles. Not only was he a wonderful Big Brother he was one of my right handed people on the Group Outing Committee. He helped to plan and execute outings for the Bigs and Littles that brought so much pleasure and helped to build connection between other matches. No task was too big or too small. He was generous, kind, fun loving, and so giving to his Littles, their families and his fellow Bigs. I know he will be missed by many. He made the world a better place and left us way too soon. May the love and support of family and friends provide comfort to you. Elaine Best

May 5 at 5:35 PM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 9:37 AM

Elaine, I am glad that you had the opportunity to supervise Gary in his role as a Jewish Big Brother in the JBBBSA program. He certainly was well prepared to deal with kids! He loved coming to my house to visit our 5 children and he always had Connect 4, backgammon, Chinese Checkers, Bonkers, Dice Derby, and many other games in his trunk in addition to having several DVD movies and TV shows he thought my kids would enjoy. If the weather was nice, everyone would hang out outside, but he always wanted to be prepared for switching tasks at a moment's notice. I am really glad that he lived just moments away from us so we could see him often. I am glad that he helped plan events for your group. He always loved to help in any way possible. Thank you for telling me about the impact he had on your life. --- Lisa Martel



**Anonymous** sent a sympathy card to the Salzinger family.



May 5 at 5:29 PM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 9:14 AM

Thank you very much for remembering Gary. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**Penny O'connor** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



May 5 at 5:23 PM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 9:13 AM

Penny, thanks for sharing the picture. He always loved that swing at Pat's mom's house, and he has Melissa on his left, with David to his left, and of course, a yellow ball for amusing Melissa. Gary was like the Pied Piper. We would go swimming at the Community Pool, and kids would gravitate towards him. He would be dangling some kids from his right arm and then other kids from his left arm at the same time. (He had very strong arm muscles.). I am really happy that you were able to get to know Gary through different events over the years. He as a total sweetheart and loved everyone. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



**Penny O'connor** May 5 at 5:25 PM

Gary was kind an so generous with his time. He loved his nieces and nephews!



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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

AS

**Andy Sefcik** posted:

To Gary's family, My deepest sympathies to your family on Gary's passing. I knew Gary from working in the area on High School football telecasts and running into him around the area press boxes, and we would always spend time talking about sports and life in general. I received a call from his friend Russ today, and it hit me quite hard. I always enjoyed seeing him. We had plenty of great times working and even though I am retired from the business, I will miss him. He was a kind man, caring and giving of his talents to so many people. May he rest in peace, and hope to see him in Heaven one day. May your hearts seek comfort in the knowledge of how he touched so many people in his life, and that you hold fond memories of him. Andy Sefcik Retired Sports Director; Cable Nine Macedonia, Ohio

May 5 at 4:28 PM

AS

**Andy Sefcik** May 14 at 9:22 AM

Lisa, thank you for your comments. Gary corrected me a few times on the air over my career, but all in good jest! Losing him so suddenly along with the first announcer I ever worked with in the profession during these past Holidays was a tough blow. But having faith in God and knowing we'll see them again has helped. Gary indeed was a one of a kind, and he was something when it came to analytics and numbers. He impressed me with his memory and details. I'm good at remembering things, but he even stumped me from time to time. But what I liked the most about him was his humility. He NEVER made you feel uncomfortable. NEVER talked down, NEVER thought he was better than anyone else. He was Gary! That's what I will miss about him. :( Andy

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 9:07 AM

Andy, thank you for taking the time to share your memories of Gary. I am really glad that you had the opportunity to see him around the area press boxes and at the different sports events. I was always so impressed how he was able to keep track of all of the stats at the game. So much pressure, as things move so quickly! He was a very kind man and really cared about people and loved talking with others. Thank you for your condolences. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

LH

**Laura Halpert** posted:

I was fortunate enough to work with Gary as his case manager at Jewish Big Brother Big Sister Association. He was an amazing mentor and friend to his Little Brothers throughout his 20 years in our program, and was awarded Big Brother of the year at our 100 year anniversary celebration. He was always consistent and reliable and made an effort to plan activities that would be enjoyable and meaningful. He also was happy to serve on planning committees and attend recruitment events. The JBBBSA family will miss Gary very much.

May 5 at 4:19 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:54 AM

Laura, Gary mentioned you over the years. I remember when he said that he was being interviewed to see who would be a good match for him in the program for having a Little Brother. He excitedly awaited the results of the interview and always enjoyed taking his Little Brother out to many places. Watching Gary receive awards for this program was always thrilling. I loved his surprised expression, and he was always so incredibly happy. He certainly was a fantastic Big Brother, both in the program and in in real life. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

TB

**The Bedermans** posted:

Dear Lisa and family, We are so sorry about Gary's passing. Please accept our sincere condolences during such a sad time. May his memory be for a blessing

May 5 at 3:58 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:58 AM

Sorry I misspelled your last name... I think that Autotype changed it for me without my realizing it. I meant to say Bederman Family.

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:47 AM

Benderman Family, thank you for your condolences. Gary always remembered what a coincidence it was to bump into each other on the Rapid Transit on our way downtown to see the kids perform with the Orchard Middle School Ensemble singing the Star Spangled Banner at the Cleveland Indians game. He remembered the fancy camera that your family had, and that it was a special hobby of yours. He loved seeing all of you over the years at various school musical performances in Solon. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

HA

**Hayley** posted:

Lisa, Every time I saw Gary he always had a soccer stat. He knew how much soccer meant to my son Josh. I have many memories of jr. high orchestra with you and Gary. May his memories be for a blessing. Hayley Baskind

May 5 at 1:18 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:41 AM

Hayley, thank you for sharing your comments and memories. Gary certainly did love soccer, and he loved sharing this with kids. I, too, remember the days of Wiley Junior High School Orchestra where we all played the violin in Orchestra under Mr. DiPippo, and also Hebrew class with Mrs. Hecht at Cleveland Heights High School. I was surprised when our paths crossed so many years later at temple activities. Thank you again for your condolences. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

AW

**Alisa Warshay** posted:

Gary was one of the kindest and truest people I have known. A sincerely good person, always just himself, no pretenses, always friendly, kind and interested. I don't know exactly when or where I met Gary, but I saw him regularly throughout the years when I was a Big Sister and also through our mutual friendship with Glenn. I was so touched when he and Michael came to make a condolence call when my father passed away. Your family has endured such tremendous loss during these past months. From now on, may the world bless you and your family with an abundance of peace and joy. Please hug each other and share warm memories. Gary was a blessing to so many during his life. May his memory also be for a blessing.

May 5 at 11:54 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:34 AM

Alisa, I am also not exactly sure how we all met. It was probably at one of the many Jewish Singles events we used to attend together. I remember going home and telling my mom about you, and she mentioned that she knew one or more of your parents somehow. I remember that you loved Spanish, and you loved to travel to different countries. Gary was a wonderful, kind person and really was interested in everything and everyone around him. He was very sincere. I didn't realize that you were a Big Sister in the JBBBSA program, as well. So nice that Gary was able to see you at events through this group. My condolences to you on the passing of your father. Thank you for your kind words and for taking the time to share them with me. It means a lot. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

JS

**Jill Sadowsky** posted:

All of us at JBBBSA (Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters) are saddened and shocked at the loss of Gary. Gary was such an asset to this organization and especially his Little Brothers over his 20 years. He was always happy to join an event in person or on zoom, he was always smiling and simply just a wonderful 20 year volunteer to JBBBSA. We will be recognizing him at our Annual Meeting on May 24th for his 20 years of service. He will be missed by so many at the JBBBSA Family. We are so grateful for all of the Little's he supported and helped through his time here. I feel so lucky he and his current Little just went on our zoo outing April 19th and we were able to capture pictures of them together. May his memory be for a blessing, Jill Sadowsky

May 5 at 11:08 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:15 AM

Jill, Gary loved being a part of the Jewish Big Brother Big Sister program. I remember attending the awards and watching his surprised expression as he received the awards for Jewish Big Brother of the Year twice. He had no idea that his family was in the audience. Gary often invited me and my family to celebrate Chanukah at the JBBBSA Chanukah Party. I remember seeing Jungle Terry one year at that party, and he had several unusual animals with him. I am really happy that a volunteer opportunity like this existed for Gary. It was the perfect match. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

AA

**Amy Adler** posted:

I first met Gary at Northwood Elementary School. I was also lucky to work with Gary at CVS. I actually got to sit two desk away from Gary for the past couple of years. He would often come by my desk and reminisce about going to Northwood and different stores at Cedar Center. He remembered a lot! I am heartbroken by his passing! Such a kind sole! Always smiling! He will be missed.

May 5 at 10:55 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** September 4 at 6:43 PM

Hi Mindy, thank you for sharing your memories about Gary and Michael. How wonderful that you were involved in the Jewish Big Brother Big Sister program! Gary always loved being a big brother, and he was wonderful at it... I speak from experience! He was a wonderful big brother to me as we were growing up, and then in our adult years. My brothers and I always loved Air Supply, and I went to an Air Supply concert with both of them, also. Thank you for letting me know that they were special people in your life. — Lisa Martel (Gary and Michael's sister)

MT

**Mindy Tumarkin** July 26 at 9:44 AM

I'm in shock right now. I actually just heard about Gary AND MICHAEL's passing yesterday! I knew Michael from the days he used to attend Mosaic events. I remember going to see Air Supply with Michael and Laura shortly before they were married. I knew Gary from Jewish Big Bros/Big Sisters as I was a big sister at the time. Deepest, heartfelt sympathy in memory of both brothers.

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:01 AM

Amy, thank you for sharing your memories. Gary and I were always both very nostalgic about our childhood. We remembered every teacher at Northwood Elementary School, where each teacher's classroom was, where the library was, the playground equipment, etc. We remembered our days at Wiley Junior High School and Cleveland Heights High School, as well. Many happy memories of Cedar Center, too. One of our favorite memories at Northwood was eating dinner on the lawn and then going into the gym/auditorium to hear a choir concert of Broadway Show Tunes put on by the kids. I was really happy when he mentioned the coincidence of you working in the same office! What are the chances? Thank you for being his friend and for reminiscing with him. I am sure that meant a lot to him. It means a lot to me, too, that he enjoyed talking with you about this. I have enjoyed having our paths cross again, too... seeing you at preschool when our kids were little, at birthday parties at our house and at Little Gym, and then again at Solon music concerts, and in the general neighborhood. Thank you. — Lisa (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

BJ

**Barry Jacobs** posted:

Deepest sympathy to Salzinger family. I knew Gary thru Fairmount Temple and he was always friendly and smile on his face. I have not seen Gary for while but will always remember is smiling face and never a bad word came from him I met Lisa thru Gary and she and her family volunteered to perform at Montifore for my program. I am really shocked at your loss Barry Jacobs

May 5 at 10:33 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 6:02 AM

Barry, thank you for sharing your memory about Gary. Fairmount Temple was a huge part of our family's life, both when I was growing up, and then, later when I had a family of my own. Gary was always optimistic, friendly, and happy. My family and I remember volunteer performing on behalf of the Fairmount Temple Brotherhood for everyone at Montefiore for a musical day filled with Jewish music for everyone to enjoy. We sang, danced, played the violin, played the piano, and then enjoyed cookies and lemonade with the residents. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and Gary was right there to cheer us all on and talk with the residents, as well. That was a wonderful day and is a very happy memory. Thank you for your condolences. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

SR

**Susan Ringel** posted:

To Lisa, Pat, and all of the Martels, We are so sorry to hear about Gary. We remember him, and all of you, so well from Fairmount Temple. Gary was such a caring and friendly person, so genuinely interested in everybody he met. We are thinking of you. Sincerely, Susan and Mark Ringel

May 5 at 7:36 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 5:48 AM

Susan and Mark, thank you for your beautiful comment and for your condolences and for remembering us when others in my family have passed away over the years. We remember seeing you and your sons at Fairmount Temple, as well. You were always so nice to all of us. We loved seeing everyone at services and other temple events. Susan, you were a wonderful religious school teacher to my kids. Thank you for your kind words and for reaching out to us. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

BB

**Bruce Bogart** posted:

What a mensch! What a loss. I met Gary through Beachwood Theater, years ago. I never saw him NOT smiling, laughing, and being a "team player". Just a good man. May his blessing be a memory.

May 5 at 6:40 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 14 at 1:53 AM

Gail, thank you for sharing this with us. Gary certainly loved to explore different fitness centers! He loved working out, and he loved to make new friends and talk to people everywhere he met. I am really happy that you had the opportunity to get to know him and to see what an amazing person he was. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

GF

**Gail Fonda** May 11 at 9:55 AM

My husband and I met Gary years ago at the JCC. Then at Bally's, then LA Fitness. This is a shocking loss. Our condolences.

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 6:56 AM

Bruce, Thank you for sharing this. I really appreciate it. Gary LOVED to perform in plays. I specifically remember seeing him in Oliver, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Mary Poppins. He was probably in other shows, too. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

SU

**Susan** posted:

I have know Gary since Northwood Elementary School. I always enjoyed our conversation when we would run into each other at events over the years. Lisa, please accept all my love and heart wishes for you. Susan Cole-Stein

May 5 at 4:53 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 7:01 AM

Hi, Susan. Gary and I were always very nostalgic and loved to talk about our days at Northwood Elementary School. We still remembered who all of our teachers were AND where all of the classrooms were. We loved going to school there, and all of the wonderful people who also went there. Thank you for your condolences. This means a lot to us. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



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APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

BF

**Bob Fortuna** posted:

I first met Gary when I covered high school sports at The Plain Dealer and we remained friends ever since. A fantastic individual and I'm still in shock since hearing of his passing. Prayers and thoughts to his family. RIP, Gary. You did good.

May 5 at 3:58 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 7:04 AM

Bob, thank you for your lovely comment. As you know, Gary loved doing the statistics for the high school teams. He took great pride in his work, and loved being able to help with this.

MK

**Matt Kulkin** posted:

I first met Gary in 2005 at a Beachwood play. A few years later I started to attend Friday night football games at Mayfield stadium where Gary ran the stats in the press box. We both recognized each other from a few years past and I was always curious with what went on in the press box. He was more than generous to invite me in and show me around. When I joined the marching band in high school, I would always try to visit Gary in the press box after halftime to say a quick hello before I had to get back onto the field. Whenever I would run into Gary, whether it was at The Temple or at JCC Day Camps, where I was a counselor for his niece and nephew (Rebecca & David), he always had a smile on his face and loved to talk sports! Gary sure knew his stats and was a proud Cleveland sports fan. A great guy who will be truly missed. My condolences to his family.

May 4 at 8:47 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 7:13 AM

Hi Matt, Wow! Your paths crossed so many times and in so many different ways! It sounds like you both had many common interests. Gary loved being in community theater plays (Peter Pan, Oliver, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Mary Poppins, etc.). I am glad he showed you around the Press Box. I'll bet he was very proud to do this, always wanting to teach people about things. Gary loved participating in anything having to do with the Temple. I am so glad that you were Rebecca and David's counselor! My brothers and I all loved attending JCC Day Camps when we were younger, and we are thrilled that the next generation is enjoying it as much as we did. Thank you for sharing all of this.— Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

AK

**Arlene Kaplan** posted:

The loss of Gary was such a shock that I'm still trying to process it. Lisa, Pat, Laura, Rebecca, Jennifer, David, and Melissa Martel and Laura and Alex Salzinger--my heart breaks for you. I know how important family was to him and how proud he was of all of you. He would have the biggest smile when he talked to me about you and all your accomplishments. And to all his dear friends, Jewish little brother, co-workers, and relatives--what a deeply saddened time this is without this positive shining light who touched so many lives. It has been an honor to know Gary and the whole Salzinger family--the nicest family you'll ever meet. I hold in my heart many great memories together. Lisa, I have the best memories of you, Gary, and Michael with our friends group with all our schmoozing gatherings at Marilyn and Keith's house for New Year's or dinner and games night and how excited Gary was to invite me to a soccer game and tell me all about his involvement with stats. And he liked to update me on what he was doing at his job at Progressive and then later his other jobs and all the other things happening in his life and with you and his nieces and nephews. Gary was always so kind to me and made me feel special. And even after time had passed where we had not seen each other, it was as if time stood still when we saw each other again and I was welcomed with open arms and a warm smile. While it was too soon for Gary to leave, may his family be comforted to know that his brother and parents are with him and I'm sure that Gary is up there watching and keeping stats of his favorite sports teams. And if you ever need to talk or just get a cup of coffee, I am only a phone call away :)Love and Prayers,Arlene

May 4 at 5:38 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 7:26 AM

Paul, Gary and Michael both enjoyed spending time with you. I am glad you played Basketball with Gary. He certainly loved his sports! He was also a huge fan of Chinese food. I remember you coming to the party at my house many years ago, and I remember that you knew my first cousins, too. Thank you for sharing your memories.— Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 7:21 AM

Arlene, thank you for sharing all of those beautiful memories. I remember all of those happy times, too. He was such a special person. Thank you for being a part of all of those memories. I love remembering all of the good times we had. Sharing all of this means a lot.— Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

PL

**Paul Dana Liberman** May 4 at 6:50 PM

I met Gary through his brother Michael who I worked with in college at consumer marketing research company. I used to play basketball with Gary at the Jewish Community Center in the 1990's after work. Gary and I worked at MBNA America in the Telemarketing Department. Gary had many talents and was very outgoing. He was smart and cared about others. I remember going out to eat with Gary and Michael and some friends at a Chinese restaurant. I even went to a party at Gary's house and his sister Lisa's. In addition, I knew his cousins from Mayfield Heights, Ohio. I enjoyed knowing Gary and his family. Gary will be missed by many people.



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

AK

AK

**Arlene Kaplan** May 4 at 5:50 PM

I know he's watching over his family here telling everyone up there with pride about his nieces and nephews.

VA

**Vincent T Alvarez** posted:

I'll always remember Gary being a caring and athletic person! He cared about his family and was very involved with big brothers of America. Kids really looked up to him! He liked working out and playing basketball. I always beat Michael BUT NEVER GARY! Because he was in better shape than me. Gary and I also talked Brown's and Mayfield football. MAY GOD BLESS THE SALZINGER FAMILY at this time! 😞

May 4 at 4:33 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 6:06 PM

Vince, you knew both of my brothers and my family for many years. I am glad that you enjoyed playing basketball games with them. — Lisa Martel (Gary and Michael's sister)

LG

**Len Gold** posted:

My condolences go out to Lisa, Laura and Alex. I met Gary over 10 years ago at a Temple Emanu El Brotherhood's Sports Nights. He came up to me afterward and was showing a high school stats excel program. He came to everyone I've had since then. He asked to go to Coach Sam's inner circle benefit dinner. We would go see Terry Pluto's library talks too. He loved Cleveland Sports teams and sports in general. We talked Friday about the Browns draft choices. Gonna miss you. R.I.P. Len Gold

May 4 at 3:54 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 6:14 PM

Len, Gary mentioned you often. He loved to attend the Temple Emanu El Brotherhood Sports Nights and looked forward to them. He was so proud of that Excel program he created! Gary was very excited that the Draft was in Cleveland this year. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

MS

**Marty Shingler** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I've known Gary as a member of the Browns' stat crew since they came back in 1999. He was always a pleasure to be around and was so excited to be in the press box. In fact, any football press box was his second home and favorite way to spend his spare time. It was his passion. The attached photo was of our stat crew and hanging in his living room. It was taken on December 16, 2007 in the infamous "Snow Bowl" game against the Buffalo Bills. It was one of his favorite photos of many of the stat crew and reminded him of the good times that we had over the years. You'll be missed and there will be a very big hole in that box this football season! RIP!



May 4 at 3:01 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 6:40 PM

Johnathon, thank you for sharing these memories. I knew he liked working out, but I never knew Gary enjoyed running to and from his car. Interesting! I do know that he liked to have set routines, so I am not surprised about the special food on special days. Keeping up with the news was also important to him. Gary and I loved to watch Seinfeld episodes when we were younger, and we also discussed Seinfeld trivia with one another. Thank you for sharing how proud he was of his family. We were proud of him, too! — Lisa (Gary's sister)

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 6:21 PM

Marty, Gary loved that picture. I remember him showing it to me. He felt very at home in the Press Box, and was quite excited when the opportunity arose to help with the statistics for the Cleveland Browns when they returned to Cleveland. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

JO

**Johnathon** May 5 at 5:24 AM

Gary was one of the most positive people I've had the privilege to know; frustratingly so at times, but you couldn't help but like him. He was so excited about things I'd find mundane. Like he didn't typically walk to and from his car at work, he'd run. He brought his newspaper in his briefcase everyday. Subway day, Chinese day, etc. The way he'd linger excitedly at my desk waiting for a chance to share a piece of decade old trivia from Seinfeld or to tell me about an amazing stat he uncovered about a St. Edward player. But the thing that sticks the most is the way he just genuinely cared. He took so much pride in his family, his siblings and their kids, his little brothers from the big brothers program, etc. He celebrated their accomplishments as though they were his own. He was a friend who was easy to have. He'll be missed.



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

JH

**Jeff Hrdlicka** posted:

Gary was the kindest and most genuine person I've ever met. I had the honor to work with Gary for several years and I cannot think of a day where Gary did not have a smile on his face. I'll always think of him as a kind and gentle soul. Gary's willingness to help someone work on a project - without concern for the effort or hours he would have to sacrifice to do so - was unparalleled. Probably the most dependable person in the office. You will be missed! Rest in peace, friend.

May 4 at 2:47 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 5 at 6:51 PM

Jeff, your comments described Gary perfectly. He was always smiling, and he was kind, gentle, dependable, and dedicated. He was responsible, sincere, and was always willing to help. Thank you for your comment. --- Lisa (Gary's sister)

SS

**Sherie Scott** posted:

Gary was an amazing Big Brother to my son Alex. He loved taking him to plays, play grounds and to parks to play board games. He enjoyed teaching both of my boys different math tricks. He will be greatly missed by myself and Alex.

May 4 at 2:25 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 6 at 2:43 AM

Sherie, I am glad that your boys had the opportunity to get to know Gary and enjoy these different outings with him. He loved being a Big Brother, both in the program, and in real life. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

ES

**Eric Swann** posted:

Gary loved sports. A couple of times each day he would stop by to talk sports with our group at the office. I would often side track him on other subjects and he was always a pleasure to speak with. One of the things I missed about not being in the office this past year was seeing Gary every day. Good luck in your next adventure Gary.

May 4 at 2:10 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 6 at 2:52 AM

Eric, sports was definitely one of Gary's favorite topics of conversation. He certainly knew his stuff! I am glad you enjoyed talking with him in the office and spending time with him. He loved his job and the people at his job and was a very dedicated employee. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

EH

**Erika Howard** posted:

I am devastatingly shocked to hear the news of Gary's passing. I worked with Gary in my first job with Progressive Insurance back in 1996. He is honestly the kindest soul I have ever met. Always positive, caring, and eager to please. I didn't work with him long, maybe a year or a little more, but we crossed paths many times over the years and each time it was like a day hadn't passed in between. He was the kind of guy that just made you want to be better and do better. So extremely genuine and present at all times. Most recently we met again about 12 years ago when I moved to Solon with my young family. His nieces and nephews were in school with my kids. I looked forward to seeing him in the fitness center and at every orchestra concert, choir concert, theater performance, and various other school programs. Shortly before the pandemic shut down, I am so glad I had the opportunity to walk the track with Gary and have a longer visit than usual. He was truly selfless and got immense pleasure out of supporting his family and friends. I will forever look for his smiling face around every corner. My deepest sympathy goes out to Gary's family.

May 4 at 2:05 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 6 at 2:56 AM

Erika, thank you so much for sharing your beautiful memories of Gary! I remember when she first introduced me to you at one of the Solon Schools music performances. He spoke very highly of you, and I am glad you got to see each other over the years after he switched to a different job. Seeing school performances will not be the same for me without my brother being in the audience. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

KK

**Karen Kowalski** posted:

Lisa, Pat & Family - I was so very saddened to hear of Gary's passing. I worked with him at CVS. He would stop by my desk often and we'd talk about the Cavs, Indians, Browns, St. Ed's, Mayfield, Orange and Nordonia high school football. We'd also talk about our families and discovered that my brother, who passed away in 2016, was much like Gary - always there to spend quality time with his nieces and nephews. Like my brother, Gary loved to talk about all of them and how much they meant to him. He, also like my brother, tried to pass on to them an appreciation for Cleveland sports history. Gary was always positive and upbeat and tried to make the best of any situation. He always had an interesting tidbit or fact to share, always had a smile on his face and was a pleasure to work with and a good friend. I will truly miss him! I'll see you again, someday - Rest in Peace. Karen Kowalski

May 4 at 1:16 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 6 at 3:04 AM

Karen, I am glad that you had the opportunity to work with Gary at CVS. Sports was definitely one of his favorite things to discuss! Gary was a wonderful brother to me and uncle to my children and his other nephew. He was so kind and thoughtful, and always wanted to educate us in the topic of sports history. My condolences to you on the loss of your brother. Losing a sibling is a horrible thing to have to go through. Thank you for sharing. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

SN

**Shashank Nainwal** posted:

Gary was an amazing human being and such a caring and loving team member. He was in my team for past 4 years and was always eager and interested to learn more. He would willingly take on extra work and would always finish it on time. I learnt from Gary how to be humble and respect others. He will be deeply missed by all of us. I will miss Gary.

May 4 at 1:15 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 8:56 AM

I am sorry I misspelled your name in my earlier comment... Sashank. --- Lisa

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 7 at 8:27 PM

Shawshank, I am really happy that you had the opportunity to get to know Gary Salzinger, and I am glad to hear that we was such a wonderful contributor to your team. Meeting deadlines was always very important to him. He will be missed. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister).



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**Tatiana Pilipenko** posted:

I am still in deep disbelief that Gary, who was always full of life, always had a good story to tell and laugh to share, is no longer with us. I sat across the aisle from him, and my day would become more interesting, brighter, and quicker to pass as soon as he came to work. Even I knew him for a short period of time (only 2 years), he became a very good friend of mine. Both of us watched a couple of SHS Drama Club performances. He enjoyed them very much and always was looking forward to a new one. We met in Solon Rec Center a few times during a workout, and it instantly would become easier and more fun. He was very proud of his nieces and nephews, their successes and accomplishments. When he was talking about them, you could see his pride and love for them. All the memories are running in my head and make me cry and happy at the same time, because I was lucky to know him. I will miss him terrible!

May 4 at 12:51 PM

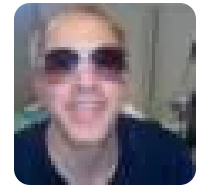


**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 2:15 AM

Tatiana, I am really happy that you had the opportunity to get to know Gary, even if it was only for a little while. I know exactly what you mean about him brightening your day! You spoke of many things he loved... work, theater, exercising, family, and friends. Thank you for being his friend. This meant a lot to him. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



**Chris Howell** shared an album called **Memories Album**.



May 4 at 12:13 PM



**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 2:19 AM

Chris, thank you for sharing this picture. Gary always enjoyed having his picture taken and looks very happy hanging out at his work desk. — Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

HM

**Hector Marinaro** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends. May he rest in peace. Hector Marinaro

May 4 at 12:02 PM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 2:30 AM

Hector, thank you for including your comment. This would have meant a lot to Gary! Having grown up in a house with Gary, I know how much he loved watching and talking about the Cleveland Force and the Cleveland Crunch professional soccer teams. He spoke so highly of you and your amazing soccer skills and enjoyed watching you on these teams. You really enriched his life and made him very happy. Thank you. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

NO

**Natalya Onik** posted:

Gary, your warm smile and kind soul will be missed by all of us who were privileged to know you. Rest In Peace!

May 4 at 11:22 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 2:33 AM

Natalya, thank you for your comment. It is comforting to know that Gary's warm smile and gentle soul will be remembered by others. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

GH

**Gerry Hrdlicka** posted:

I'm so sorry to hear of Gary's passing. He was always so friendly and I will miss hearing him talk about sports to the other team members when we were all together in the office in Solon. Gary made quite an impression on me when he came to my father's funeral out of respect to my family and I. I will never forget that. I will keep Gary and his family in my prayers. Rest in peace my friend...I'll miss him.

May 4 at 11:10 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 3:00 AM

Gerry, talking sports in the office... one of Gary's favorite things to do! Gary was a kind and sensitive person who wanted to provide support to others when people who he knew had close ones who passed away... which is what you just did by providing your comment. Thank you for mentioning this lovely memory you have of Gary. --- Lisa Martel (Gar's sister)



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

SW

**Sue White** posted:

Gary, what can you say about a guy that just exuded kindness. Although I never worked on the same team as Gary, we sat very close to each other and interacted daily. Gary was one of the shining lights you would run into going to and from our seats. I will miss the many conversations we had and his genuine personality.

May 4 at 11:06 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 3:35 AM

Tim, Gary loved the fact that he was able to have an impact on something going into the Cleveland Plain Dealer! This meant a lot to him. He always wanted to make sure that data was correct, and that people were getting the most accurate information possible. He was always kind, selfless, generous, and dependable. I am really happy that he was able to help you with your stories and that you could count on him. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 3:09 AM

Sue, Gary mentioned how much he loved his work environment and all of the people surrounding him. I am really happy that you got to know him and observed his kindness and amazing personality. He certainly was a shining light and could brighten up anyone's day. Those daily work conversations really meant a lot to Gary. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

TR

**Tim Rogers** May 4 at 1:13 PM

I cannot count the number of times Gary helped validate and enhance my stories with his accurate and timely statistics as my Plain Dealer deadline approached. Above that he was a kind and selfless soul, as generous with his information as needed. May he rest in peace. - Tim Rogers



## Tribute Wall

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021

CM

**Chuck Murr** posted:

Gary was an unabashed fan of the Cleveland Crunch when I was the team's media director in the early 1990s. He sat in the section next to the press box the first two years after we moved to CSU from the Coliseum in 1992. He asked if we needed any help and I said sure. He was excited to do the most menial tasks, even going to Xerox the halftime stats. He came back each time proud as can be as if he was delivering the Magna Carta. He was truly a guy you could count on wanting to count and a more dependable, kinder, gentler soul will never be found. He parlayed his Crunch experience into joining the Browns stats crew in 1999. He also did stats for hundreds and hundreds of high school and college sporting events. I believe his time with the Crunch has prepared him for his next task: keeping stats in The Department of Reincarnation. Gary got most excited during an indoor soccer game when there was an over-and-back call. So now he'll be adding up those going over and back. - Chuck Murr

May 4 at 11:05 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 3:28 AM

Chuck, thank you for your beautiful comment. Gary had a strong passion for professional soccer, football, and sports, in general. He sincerely wanted to do ANYTHING he could to support the teams and took great pride in contributing when he could. I can imagine him proudly carrying the photocopies back after making them. He was always like that around his family, too... eager to help us in any way possible. I never heard of an "over-and-back call". However, had I asked Gary about this, I am sure I would have COMPLETELY understood everything about this by the end of our conversation. Gary was so proud to have been able to participate as the statistician for professional sports teams and high school sports teams. Thank you again. Your words meant a lot to me and my family. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)

CV

**Charlie Vark** posted:

I only knew Gary in a work capacity, but he was always friendly and cheerful and would do anything to help his colleagues. He helped me on numerous occasions when I was stumped with Excel spreadsheet formulas. What a great guy. And, yes, he loved sports and statistics. I will miss him.

May 4 at 10:54 AM

LM

**Lisa Martel** May 8 at 3:40 AM

Charlie, Gary certainly was helpful. He loved to explain things to others... especially Microsoft Excel spreadsheet formulas and anything related to math. Once he learned something, he was so excited that he wanted to share it with everyone. I am really glad that you got to know him at work. His friendliness and cheerfulness would certainly brighten up anyone's day. --- Lisa Martel (Gary's sister)



## Media

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



David Sindell shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

May 8 at 2:27 AM



Gary with David Sindell and Howard Blecher August 2020



## Media

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



Penny O'connor shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

May 5 at 5:23 PM



Gary in 2012. He loved his nieces and nephews



**Marty Shingler** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

May 4 at 3:01 PM



Taken on the field of First Energy Stadium on December 16, 2007



## Media

**Gary Joel Salzinger**

APR 11, 1967 - MAY 1, 2021



**Chris Howell** shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

May 4 at 12:13 PM





## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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