

Dr. Murray Gerber

Dr. Murray Gerber, of Bradenton, passed away on November 19, 2006. Dr. Gerber received his BS in Education from Salem College, part of the University of Massachusetts, and his Masters and Doctorate in Education from Boston University. He has been a Teacher, Principal and Superintendent of Schools. He also served as an educational consultant and a college professor at Ben Gurion University in Israel. While in Israel, he rewrote the teacher training program and helped develop educational research centers from the country. He had a love for teaching that reflects in the leadership he provided to Bradenton Academy. His philosophy that "nothing succeeds like success," continues to be a vital part of the Academy's mission statement. Dr. Gerber has been recognized as an innovator in education and received a commendation for his work by the Massachusetts State Legislature. He has also served as a site visitor for the United States Department of Education's Blue Ribbon School Recognition Program. Dr. Gerber came to Manatee from Israel and was a Founding Member and Lay Rabbi at Temple Beth El in Bradenton from 1975-1983.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lois M. Gerber, of Bradenton; two daughters, Susan R. Hedgecock, of Bradenton and Diane L. Small of Bradenton; one sister, Bertha Katz of Salem, Mass.; six grandchildren, Miriam, Eli, David, Joshua, Rebekah and Hannah. The family will observe Shiva, Monday, 7p.m. till 8:30p.m. and Tuesday, 7p.m. till 8:30p.m. at the residence. Service is 3p.m., November 20, 2006 at Temple Beth Sholom. Toale Brothers Colonial Chapel in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions to B.P.A. Family Connections Scholarship Fund, 7900 40th Ave. West, Bradenton, FL 34209.

BRADENTON ACADEMY FOUNDER, LAY RABBI DIES

MANATEE --- Murray Gerber died Sunday, ending a career of service in education recognized internationally. Mr. Gerber and his wife, Lois, founded Bradenton Academy, now known as Bradenton Preparatory Academy, in 1975, after spending the early 1970s in Israel. "He and his wife have been educational leaders in Bradenton for many years," said Larry Simmons, former member of the Manatee County School Board. "They always had the best interests of the student in mind." Mr. Gerber received a bachelor of science in education degree from Salem College at the University of Massachusetts, then went on to get his masters and doctorate degrees from Boston University. He taught in Massachusetts schools and at 32 became a superintendent in Whitman, Mass. In 1972, Mr. Gerber moved his family to Israel, where he was an adviser to the minister of education. He and his wife worked in the classroom and also developed training programs for teachers. The family moved to Bradenton after he came to visit Lois Gerber's parents and was convinced to stay and open a private school. Harry Kinnan, a member of the Manatee County School board, said he has known the Gerber family for more than 20 years. "He has been a pillar in education in Manatee County," Kinnan said. "He is recognized as a great authority in private and charter school education." Kinnan described Mr. Gerber as a "thoughtful and quiet man" who was always a gentlemen. The success of Mr. Gerber's efforts at Bradenton

Preparatory Academy are reflected in his students, said Simmons. "Many of their students went on to Ivy League and quality schools of higher education," he said. "This will be a loss to the community." Mr. Gerber is survived by his wife of 48 years, Lois; daughters Susan R. Hedgcock and Diane L. Small, both of Bradenton; a sister, Bertha Katz, of Salem, Mass.; and six grandchildren. The family will observe Shiva from 7-8:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at their home. A service will be held at 3 p.m. Monday at Temple Beth Sholom, 1050 Tuttle Ave. S., Sarasota.

Source:

The Bradenton (FL) Herald - Monday, November 20, 2006