

# BARRY TARSHIS



Barry Tarshis, of Westport, CT, died peacefully at home February 4, 2025, with his family by his side. He was 86. A cherished husband, father, brother, father-in-law, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend, tennis partner, and basketball coach, he endured two years of brutal health challenges by drawing on a bottomless wellspring of optimism, charm, kindness, generosity, and a weak spot for mediocre

jokes.

Barry Lee Tarshis was born in 1939, in Pittsburgh, PA. He loved sharing stories of growing up in the East Liberty rowhouse with his parents and his older sister, Carole, along with their aunt and uncle and two cousins. His father, Max was a musician who instilled in Barry a lifelong love of music.

Barry overcame his childhood shyness to star in the Peabody High School production of Guys and Dolls, earn a spot on the basketball team, and capture the heart of his future wife, the beautiful Karen Ross, who he began dating at the age of 15.

After leaving University of Pittsburgh one credit short of graduation, Barry traveled across Europe on a motorbike, appeared as an extra in the Fellini film, La Dolce Vita, lived on a kibbutz in Israel, and moved into a Greenwich Village hovel to embark on a career as a writer.

After marrying Karen and serving in the U.S. Army at the Sandia base in New Mexico, he settled into a 30-plus year career as a freelance author. He wrote a dozen books and hundreds of articles for the New York Times, Playbill, Playboy, Town & Country, and Tennis, among other publications.

He would later teach writing, craft communications seminars for business leaders, and create the grammar and writing website Communications Fitness.

The shaping forces of Barry's career were an eagerness to learn and his genuine curiosity about and respect for all kinds of people, from tennis champions to the students who took his writing classes at public schools in the South Bronx. He brought these same qualities into his most prized creative endeavor, his family. He loved his wife Karen deeply. He parented his children, Lauren and Andrew, with unconditional love, unquestioning support, many laughs and spot-on wisdom at critical junctures.

Barry is survived by his wife of 62 years, Karen Ross Tarshis; his two children, Lauren (David Dreyfuss) and Andrew; his seven grandchildren, Leo Dreyfuss (Rebecca Goldman), Jeremy Dreyfuss (Shira), Dylan and Valerie Dreyfuss, Lily, Evi, and Ruby Tarshis; and his adoring sister, Carole Cohen.

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