

TRIBUTE - Remembering Israel Itzkowitz 29.10.1923 - 12.11.2014

**JDA Support Worker
Lisa Mansur pays tribute to
Israel Itzkowitz**

Israel Wolf Itzkowitz was born in Marylebone, central London. His parents had a little girl before him, but she died before Israel was born.



Israel was a quiet and intelligent man. He read many books and knew every bus route in London. He thought through everything, coming up with ingenious solutions. If he had been born in modern times, he could have been a historian or transport planner.

Israel loved getting out and about. When he first started using a walking frame, he did so much walking he wore out 3 frames in 1 year.



Unlike his peers, Israel only arrived at the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children when he was 8 or 9 years old. He was painfully shy and reserved but the other students soon learned how clever and talented he was. He was particularly gifted at Maths and Art.

At the Jewish Deaf School, Israel met his lifelong friend, Harry Newman.

He is also the only person I know who could sleep through most of JDA Wednesday talks, then get up afterwards to ask an intelligent and pertinent question!

Israel profoundly felt a lack of family in his life, but I think this is what made him so thankful for every kindness shown to him. He always greeted you with the warmest smile that would light up his whole face. He could melt even the hardest of hearts; it was impossible not to feel special in his presence.



Israel's mother died when he was a boy and his father passed away as a very young man. Israel did not have a good relationship with his step-mother. So when JDA opened its doors in Cazenove Road, Harry and Israel both lived in flats above the centre. From then on, they lived in the same building as each other until Israel moved into care in 2013. They were like brothers.

Israel worked as a carpenter right until he retired at 65. He was a talented artist, something we discovered when he started producing masterpieces at Happy Mondays.

I met Israel when I started working for JDA 12 years ago and we formed a close relationship. We shared a love of history and London and spent hours talking about these subjects.

Of course, everyone knew that Israel's great passion was transport, particularly trains and buses. We often went to his favourite place, the London Transport Museum. We also visited 30 Marylebone High Street, where he was born, and he took great pride directing me around.



Israel was deeply upset when Harry passed away and asked me about him every day. He truly missed his friend.

Israel had cancer for the last few years. When he turned 90, as a treat, Edith Garraway and I took him and Harry on the Bluebell Railway. He had the time of his life!

He will be remembered as a true gentleman and a kind and gentle soul. It was a privilege to know him and to be his Support Worker. **We really miss Israel but are comforted that he has finally found peace.**

Miriam Solomon writes:

Israel Itzkowitz turned 90 last October but sadly passed away two weeks later.

I remember him coming to our school at a rather late age. He seemed timid but blossomed and got on very well. He was clever at arithmetic, and had beautiful handwriting. In later life, he was a very good carpenter. He told me about new bus routes and new numbers.

He never forgot my birthday and knew everybody's age - a good memory!

He often talked to me about Lisa - he really appreciated her care. His actual words to me were: "Lisa is good to me, she looks after me, like a mother to me."

A quiet personality, I never saw him lose his temper or shout. He was a good, kind friend to all at JDA.