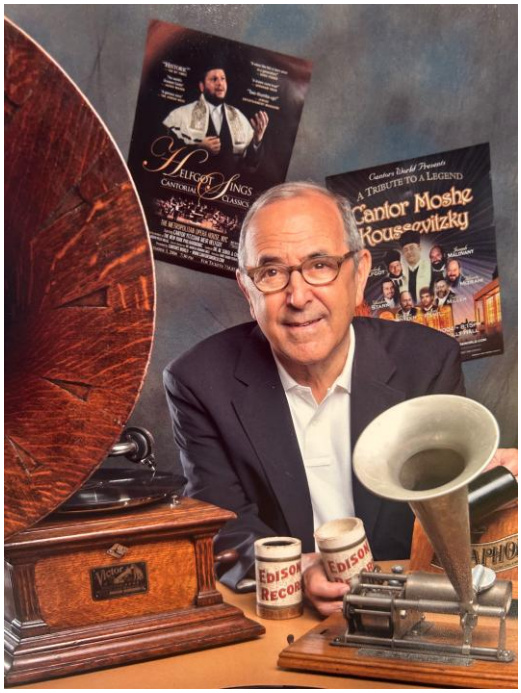


Charlie Bernhaut, born April 27, 1936, son of the late Evelyn (Beyer) Bernhaut Perlmutter and Samuel Bernhaut died peacefully on July 21, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his former wife and mother of his children, Deena Goldsmith Bernhaut and his longtime beloved partner, Helen Freedman.

Charlie was a devoted advocate for Jewish music, culture, and Israel whose lifelong passion touched generations. His volunteer broadcasting career began in 1977 on WFMU's *Jewish and Hebrew Sound*, and in 1980 he created *Two Hours of Jewish Soul Music* on WSOU, a radio program he hosted for 16 years. Through radio, internet broadcasts, and the organization *Cantors World*, which he co-founded with Cantor Benny Rogosnitzky, Charlie played a significant role in reviving and promoting traditional cantorial music.

Born and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Charlie attended Weequahic High School, served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, earned degrees from Rutgers University and Rutgers Law School, and spent a formative year in Israel. A passionate collector, he amassed more than 15,000 Jewish music recordings and shared them freely with audiences around the world. (see www.charliebernhaut.com to listen to hundreds of archived shows and thousands of moving and inspirational tracks of Jewish music.)

Professionally, Charlie became a leading expert in supermarket site location research. He worked for Pathmark and Waldbaum's for many years. He then went on to be a consultant for shopping center developers.

Beyond music, Charlie was an outspoken supporter of Israel, co-hosting the television program *Israel Update* for eight years. He was also known for his presentations on Jewish comedy and culture, which he taught and shared with community groups and students.

Above all, Charlie took pride in enriching Jewish life through music, education, and community service, finding his greatest reward in knowing he had touched the souls of others.

Charlie's life was deeply enriched by his beloved Tau Delta Phi friends. This group of men played poker together for years, met frequently for lunch and just enjoyed kibitzing with each other.

Charlie is survived by: his daughter Beth (Dan) Papermaster of Hartford, CT and grandchildren Nathan and Molly Papermaster, his son Sam Bernhaut of Toms River, NJ and grandchildren Leeza, Neil and Eli Bernhaut and their mother Shani Zelinger, his son, Richard (Joni) Bernhaut of Basking Ridge, NJ, his loving sisters and their families, Wilma Pitman of Morristown, NJ and Sylvia (Steven) Brody of Houston, TX. Charlie's family is grateful for the love and support Charlie received from Helen Freedman's entire family.

Funeral will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 11:30, at Jewish Memorial Chapel, 841 Allwood Rd, Clifton, NJ.

Shiva information:

Following burial, 4-7pm, at Cong. Shaya Ahavat Torah, 113 Hawkins Ave, Parsippany NJ; on Sunday, July 26, 4-8pm (service at 6:45) at Park East Synagogue, 163 E 67th St, NYC; and on Monday, July 27, 6:30 (service at 7:30) at the Library in the Mansion at Goodwin Estates, 1280 Asylum Avenue, Hartford, CT.

Donations in Charlie's memory may be made to:

Charlie Bernhaut Cantorial Music Fund at Park East Synagogue, for training the next generation in cantorial music and Jewish Liturgy. Park East Synagogue, must note "Bernhaut Fund"- 163 E 67th St, New York, NY 10021, parkeastsynagogue.org/membership/support-us/

Chabad of SE Morris County, 215 Ridgedale Ave, #100, Florham Park, NJ 07932, chabadcares.com/templates/articlecco_cdo/aid/5027909/jewish/Donate-Now.htm