

TRIBUTE



REMEMBERING JDA MEMBER RUTH MYERS MBE

Our lifelong friend, Ruth Myers, passed away on 29 April 2024.

Ruth Myers was an inspirational woman, whose decades of dedicated campaigning resulted in deaf people being able to watch subtitles on TV, enjoy BSL in-vision and use telephone relay services. She received an MBE for her services to Improving Telecommunications Access for deaf people.

She passed away peacefully at Anita Dorfman Home at the age of 92.

Fittingly, her funeral took place during Deaf Awareness Week. She made history when her funeral was the first Jewish funeral to have live speech-to-text captioning available — giving congregants with hearing loss full access to every word of the extremely moving service and eulogies.

Sue Cipin says: “Ruth was responsible for live captioning in so many settings, so when we at JDA were arranging for her funeral to be BSL interpreted, providing access for people who communicate in British Sign Language, we felt it was only right to provide access for deaf people who don’t sign too. It was absolutely as it should be.”



▲ **Ruth Myers' funeral makes Jewish deaf history as the first Jewish funeral with BSL interpreter and live captioning**

Mira Goldberg writes:



I first met Ruth when I was about 10 years old, living at a hostel for deaf children. During an open day, Ruth visited. I remember her charm and kindness. She asked me questions and, as a young girl, I was flattered

by her attention and never forgot her.

Together, Ruth and her husband, David, worked tirelessly to achieve equality for the D/deaf community. Ruth dedicated decades of her life to campaigning for equality and advocacy for people with hearing loss.

Thanks to her efforts, subtitles on all TV channels and most programmes became a reality. Her work was recognised with an MBE in 2014.

She continued her advocacy well into her late 70s, serving on many committees.

Ruth was a woman of incredible determination and strong spirit. She also had a passion for the arts, travel, country walks and cooking, and she was a talented dressmaker.

In her final years, after losing her husband in 2013, Ruth lived at the Anita Dorfman House, where she was dearly loved by the staff and other residents.

Ruth's legacy lives on in the subtitles we now see on most channels. As we take them for granted, we remember Ruth's life and owe her our gratitude.



▲ *Ruth with her cousin Rabbi Rachel Benjamin at a JDA Seder*

Rabbi Rachel Benjamin writes:

Ruth was a remarkable person – one of life's characters. Extraordinarily strong, despite — maybe because of — profound sadness and challenges that she faced in her life.

She was cheeky, feisty, stubborn, determined not to allow her deafness to restrict her full engagement in and enjoyment of life.

She knew her own mind and was kind, warm, naughty, funny — and lovable.

Deeply loved by her family and friends, she is much missed. How fortunate we are to have many happy memories to sustain and comfort us.



David and Ruth Myers in 2010