

There are people who enter your life at the exact moment that you need them the most. I am proud to say that for me that person was Ben Steinberg. It was Ben who welcomed me into the world of Jewish Music Composition. It was Ben who took me under his wing and guided me in so many areas. It was Ben who would teach more about composition through our discussions than any other teacher I could have. It was Ben who welcomed me into Guild leadership, who was able to see things in me that I couldn't see in myself. It was Ben who was the model of leadership, and whose example I still try to emulate each and every day. In my more than 20 year friendship with Ben, I always thought that my relationship with him was special, that is, until after he passed when I learned that he played this same exact role for so many. How lucky we are to have had Ben touch our lives in such profound ways. His music will only be part of his lasting legacy. His legacy will be in us choosing to live by his example, choosing to be present for others the way Ben was present for us. If we make that choice, then we will bring many blessings to Ben's memory through our actions.

David Shukiar
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