

# Couple killed in jet crash left legacy for family

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Nothing meant more to Larry and Edith Kowalsky than their family.

Whether it was family vacations, weekend retreats with their grandchildren or regular Sabbath dinners, the Kowalskys viewed all gatherings for their four sons, their wives and six grandchildren as "important."

The West Bloomfield couple's desire for family unity has rubbed off on their children and grandchildren.

"We were able to maintain our independence, but we all decided to live close together because we are all so close-knit," said Howard Kowalsky, one of the couple's sons. "We're best friends with our families."

The Kowalsky sons are leaning on their parents' legacy of family unity as they cope with the sudden loss of Larry and Edith, passengers on EgyptAir Flight 990 that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Massachusetts last weekend.

The couple was bound for a one-day stay in Cairo, Egypt, before heading to Kenya for a

two-week African safari. They were traveling with longtime friends, Norm and Joan Shapiro of Bloomfield Township.

Both men were retired pharmacists who met through a professional fraternity while studying at Wayne State University.

Larry Kowalsky, 74, was born to a Jewish family in Lithuania. At age 11, he and his family moved to the United States in 1936, escaping Adolf Hitler's holocaust of Jews in Europe.

He grew up and studied drafting in college for two years, but changed his career plans while working for a drug store.

"He saw first-hand the life of a pharmacist and decided that's what he wanted to do," Howard said. "He decided this was the way he was going to raise a family."

Shortly after marrying Edith, a Detroit native whom he met at a wedding, he established his own business in Allen Park, known as Allen Park Drug. He ran the pharmacy for nearly 30 years until he retired 12 years ago.

"No matter how busy he was at work, he always made time for his kids," Howard said,

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recalling his childhood. "Whether it was school, extracurricular activities, religion or retreats, he was there."

Edith Kowalsky, 68, earned a teaching degree from Wayne State, but focused on raising her sons as a stay-at-home mother. When her boys grew up, she helped her husband at the drug store.

Larry and Edith Kowalsky loved to travel and shared that passion with their children. The couple took their sons to Florida in 1969 to see the launch of the Apollo spacecraft that landed on the moon and to Israel in 1974.

The family trips did not stop when the boys grew up. In February, all 15 members of the immediate family spent eight days in China.

"It was a crowning moment for my parents," Howard said. "They were able to share another culture with the people they care about most."

"My dad took rolls and rolls of pictures and hours and hours of video. Then he and my mom would show those pictures to all their friends."

Part of the family, including Larry and Edith Kowalsky, planned to make a return trip to Israel next summer.

"They wanted to celebrate with their family, whether it was a holiday or a simple gathering," Howard said. "For them, to see the family together was so important."

Even in grief Monday, the couple's sons were inseparable while talking about their parents to

national and local reporters, continuing their lifelong tradition of doing things as a unit.

"We were always known as the 'Kowalsky Boys,' because we did everything together," Howard said.

Steve, 46, is a physician from West Bloomfield; Howard, 44, is a business executive from West Bloomfield; Mark, 41, is an attorney from West Bloomfield and Jeff, 34, is a photojournalist from Southfield.

They said they are forever appreciative for their parents' contributions to their lives.

"They said the sky was the limit and they wanted to make sure they were there for us," Steve said. "And they were."

The couple took their six grandchildren, between ages 7 and 16, to Ortonville each summer for a three-day retreat.

"The grandchildren looked forward to that trip with their grandparents every year," Mark Kowalsky said. "They were so proud of their grandchildren and were willing to do anything for them."

The couple lived in West Bloomfield for 20 years. They golfed and swam together and

## EGYPTAIR FLIGHT 990

frequently walked with neighbors. They also were members of Congregation Shalom B'Nai Moshe on Drake Road near Maple Road.

Rabbi Elliot Pachter, who led a memorial service for family and friends of the couple Tuesday, said Larry and Edith Kowalsky attended services on weekdays as weekdays.

"They were wonderful people who were sweet and kind," Pachter said. "They were very attached to their children and grandchildren. They were the center of their lives and very proud of them."

The Kowalsky family describes dealing with this tragedy as a "nightmare" and "absolutely horrendous," but they take some solace in the fact their parents are together.

"They always loved each other and they were never apart," Jeff said. "Even in this tragic moment, I can't imagine them being apart."

## Seminars offered by county small business center

Seminars of interest to small business owners are offered monthly by the Oakland County Small Business Center at the office complex at 1200 N. Telegraph Road in Pontiac.

The seminars are offered by professionals in the small business development industry and cover a variety of topics.

Here's a sampling:

■ **Starting a Business in Oakland County.** Information about the local business climate and services offered by the county.

■ **Writing a Business Plan.** A workshop for small business owners who are developing a plan to serve as their road map to success.

Developed by the Michigan Small Business Development Center (MI-SBDC), the class guides participants through the steps on how to prepare a business plan and provides resources. Scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 17, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The fee is \$35, including workbook and refreshments.

■ **The Marketing Plan.** Successful techniques and marketing principles to help business owners promote their products, services or ideas, conducted by the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE). To be held from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 23. The fee is \$40, including lunch.

Space is often limited, so preregistration is advised.

For additional information or preregistration call (248) 858-0783.

Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services offers a comprehensive array of community planning and business development services.

Some of the more frequently requested services are: economic development, site location, small business, export and financial assistance; community planning; market research data; digital maps and aerial photos.

The web site address for Oakland County is [www.co.oakland.mi.us](http://www.co.oakland.mi.us)

## OCC clerical, technical, paraprofessionals to vote Friday

The labor union representing about 230 clerical, technical and paraprofessional workers at Oakland Community College are

scheduled to vote on a tentative contract agreement Friday.

If the pact is ratified by members of Local 2042 of the Ameri-

ca Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), it would be presented to the OCC Board of Trustees

at its Nov. 15 meeting.

The tentative agreement was reached last week and announced Friday.

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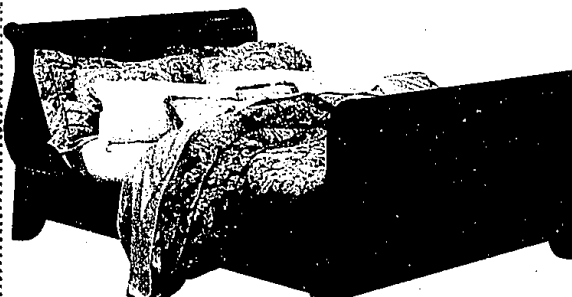

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