

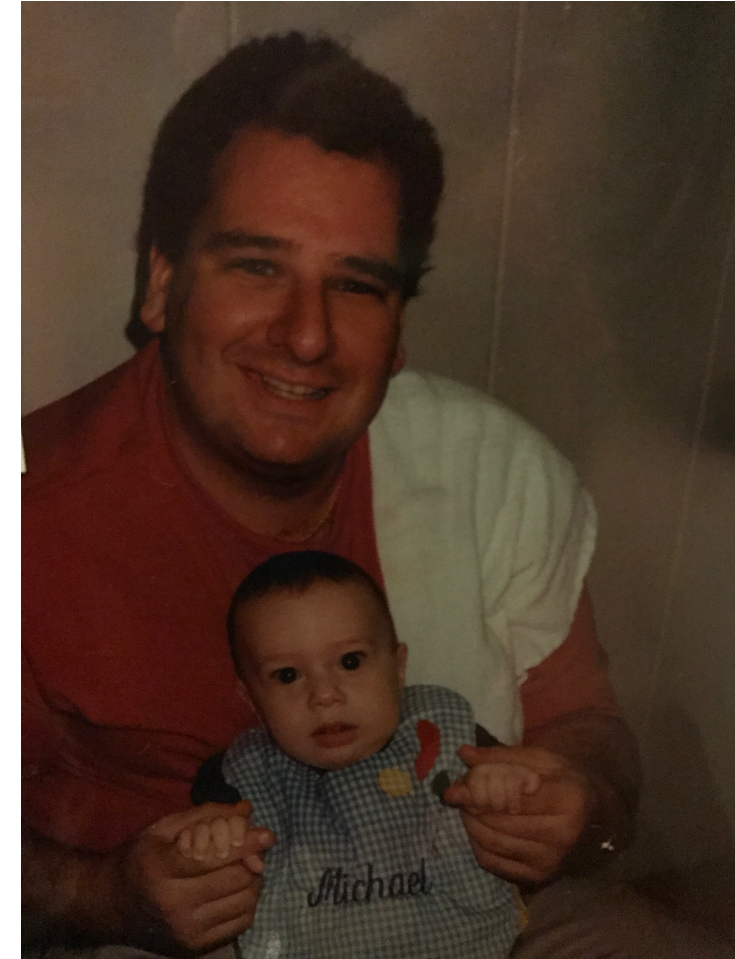


Michael Benjamin Washerstein

My Mishpacha Project

# Michael Benjamin

- My parents chose to name me after my great-grandparents
  - I never had the chance to meet either of my great-grandparents
  - If I was a girl my parents were going to name me Marissa
    - My parents chose not to know if I was a boy or a girl before I was born
- **My first name “Michael” was chosen to honor my great-grandmother Mary Trachtman**
- **My middle name “Benjamin” was chosen to honor my great-grandmother Betty Washerstein**







# My Family







## Hebrew Name

מיכאל  
בנימין

- My parents decided that my Hebrew name would correspond with my English name
  - Honoring the same set of great-grandparents
  - They briefly researched the meaning of both names
- מיכאל
  - Means “Who is like G-d”
  - In the Bible, מיכאל is one of the angels
    - Charged with protecting the nation of Israel
  - Connection: While no one is as powerful or mighty as G-d, we are all created in G-ds image. We should strive to be like HaShem in our own way.







## Hebrew Name

מיכאל  
בנימין

- “Son of the right hand” = בנימין
  - בן = son
  - ימין = right
- Benjamin was Jacob and Rachel’s last child
  - 13 children
  - 12 boys (12 tribes of Israel) + one daughter
- Many Jewish families name their youngest child Benjamin
- Connection: I had an extremely special relationship with my father. I was his “right hand man” in many cases. I would frequently help him at his job as a child. I have always looked up to my dad, and I think that my middle name is extremely fitting.





# Family Origins-Kiev (Mom's Side)



- My great-grandparents immigrated to the United States
  - Arrived in New York City
  - Trachtman family- originally lived right outside of Kiev
    - Kiev= Capital of the Ukraine
    - Controlled by the Soviet Union when my family lived there
  - The Russian language was not passed down thorough my family





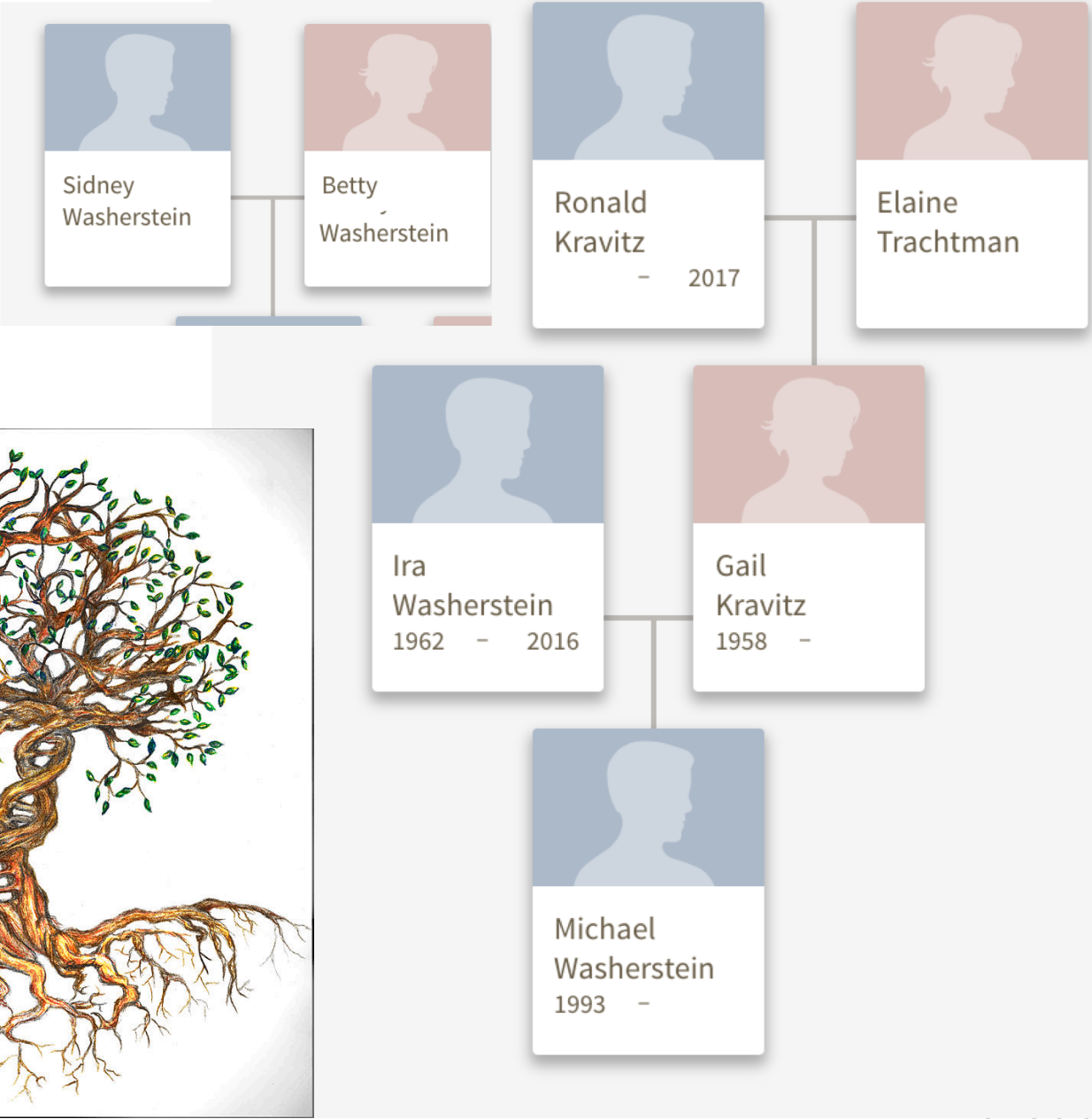
## Family Origins (Dad's Side)



- My great-grandparents immigrated to the United States
  - Washerstein family lived in Romania (city unknown)
- None of my family members have returned to visit our countries of origin



# Michael Washerstein Family Tree



Simplified Family Tree



# Ashkenazim



- Both sides of my family came to the United States from an Eastern European country
- Left most likely due to religious persecution and economic freedom
- Great-grandparents spoke Yiddish and pass down various phrases and expressions to my parents



## Ashkenazi Traditions We Celebrate



- In my family, a baby is named after a relative that has passed away
  - My first child will be named in my father's memory
- On Passover, we do not eat corn/rice
- Participate in an "Aufruf"
  - Yiddish for "Calling Up"
  - Groom is called to the Torah on the Shabbat before his wedding for an Aliyah and a blessing





# My Mishpacha

## By: Michael Washerstein

