

Joseph (Pepi) Wild was born in Vienna, Austria on September 10, 1917. He was the son of Haim (Heinrich) and Scheinsche (Sabina) Wild, the sixth of eight children.

His was a ritually observant home. In addition to his formal Jewish education, he was active in the Jewish and Zionist activities of the time, serving as an officer in the Betar youth movement.



Joseph (left) with Revisionist leader Zeev (Vladimir) Jabotinsky (right) in a Betar Youth Camp, Vienna, Austria - circa 1937.

Joseph matriculated through the University of Vienna, but the rise of Nazism forced him to emigrate in 1938 before he could complete his studies. He later received training as an engineer from Lehigh University.

His first destination in the US was to relatives in Indianapolis, IN. After a short while however he made his way to New York City, where soon after he met Bee Workman at a holiday party in Greenwich Village.

Joe, shortly after arrival in the US. Although compelled to flee Austria, Joe and his family were fortunate to leave before war began. However his father died in transit (1940).



Beatrice (Bee) Workman was born in Mount Vernon, New York on August 30, 1916. She was the daughter of David and Ethel Workman, the second of five children. She and her four siblings were raised in a traditional Jewish home.

Bee put herself through Hunter College during the worst years of the depression, working 8 years to graduate Cum Laude (History) in 1941. Nevertheless, she also made time to indulge her dramatic inclinations through repertoire theater, including performing plays in French.



Education – the intrinsic value of words and ideas – were always important to Bee and Joe.

Upon graduation, she went to work as an assistant at Penguin Publishing. Shortly afterward she met Joseph Wild.

Through Joe, Bee became interested in and knowledgeable about Zionist activities in Palestine. The couple became familiar with many of the local personalities in the revisionist movement. During this period Bee went to work for the American League for a Free Palestine, the American support group of the Irgun, one of the underground organizations operating in pre-state Israel.

In 1942 Joe was inducted in the US Army (also gaining his US citizenship). While stationed in Texas in 1943, he married Bee.

Shortly afterward he was shipped overseas. His code to Bee to let her know that he was being shipped out was a telegram that read: *“I’ve got too much of what I’m deep in the heart of”*.

Joseph fought in the European theater, where by war’s end he found himself once again in Vienna but under very different circumstances. He left the service in 1946 with the rank of Staff Sergeant (he later served for a number of years in the Georgia National Guard).

By 1947, Bee and Joe had two young daughters (Dena & Jarla) and were seeking to find their way in the new post-war world.

Employment opportunities and the warmer climate of the south brought the young family to Atlanta, where they settled on Cleveland Street in East Atlanta and Joe went to work as an engineer for Lockheed.

Some years later, Joe sought out new opportunities as the Southeast sales representative for Vulcan Binder and Cover Company, a division of EBSCO industries. He remained with Vulcan until 1972, when he and Bee moved to Israel.

Always inquisitive about the world and always wanting to learn, Joe took up the study of mineralogy. Taking the family on digging excursions across the southeast, he became a knowledgeable enthusiast of rocks and minerals for the remainder of his life.



In 1943, Bee traveled by train to Texas where she and Joe married on July 8th at Temple Emanu-El, Dallas

After settling in Atlanta and once the children were a bit older, Bee went to work as the office manager for the Southern Anti-Defamation League of B’nai Brith (ADL), where she remained for 18 years.

Around this same time (1955) the family, now with three children (Dena, Jarla and Ron), moved to Kings Court in the Virginia-Highland section of Atlanta.

Following her years with ADL, Bee went to work for prominent Atlanta physicians Walter Wildstein & Edward Reisman, with whom she remained until the family’s departure for Israel.

During these years, Bee and Joe raised their children to be active and aware members of society in general and the Jewish community in particular. Formal and informal Jewish education was provided for and all were encouraged to be involved in Atlanta’s Jewish youth scene at the time; BBG, Young Judaea and NCSY.



At their daughter Jarla’s wedding, 1971.

Beginning in 1962, Bee and Joe made numerous visits to Israel. They took great pleasure in watching the young country's growth and decided for a few years to be part of the process.



In 1975, with the kids now grown and the couple returned from Israel, Joe resumed a career in sales. However his preoccupation was renovating and remodeling the home they moved to on Cumberland Circle, near Ansley Park. Joe threw himself into a painstaking labor of love. Ever the perfectionist, he completed the project not long before his death.

Joseph Wild died in Atlanta on June 19, 1981 at the age of 64. He's buried alongside his wife Bee, in the Beth Jacob section of Crestlawn Cemetery

It was common for the Wild home to welcome Jewish servicemen and other visitors for Sabbath and holiday meals. At all times, learning, reading and Judaism were common subjects around the dinner table.

Bee helped organize and sustain a community-wide bible study group and was an active member of Hadassah. They were supporters of both Beth Jacob and Anshe Sfard synagogues.

In 1972, Bee and Joe decided the time was right to fulfill their long held desire to live full time in Israel. Already in their mid-50's, they quit their jobs, sold the house and moved to Ramat Aviv. While in Israel, Joe worked for an export marketing firm that dealt with the Israel Defense forces and Bee managed the local office of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel.

After living several years in Israel, Bee and Joe decided to be closer to family and returned to Atlanta. Bee went back to work for Dr. Wildstein in various administrative capacities until her retirement.

A year after Joe's death, Bee moved to Florida; first to Ormond-by-the-Sea and later to West Palm Beach.

During these years she remained active in community pursuits. She read for the blind, volunteered with Jewish Vocational Services and became involved with community theater. She was also relentless in her lifelong study of Hebrew.

When she could no longer live independently, Bee resettled to Annandale, VA.

Bee Wild died in Austin, Texas on October 30, 2006, at the age of 90. She's buried alongside her husband Joe, in the Beth Jacob section of Crestlawn Cemetery.