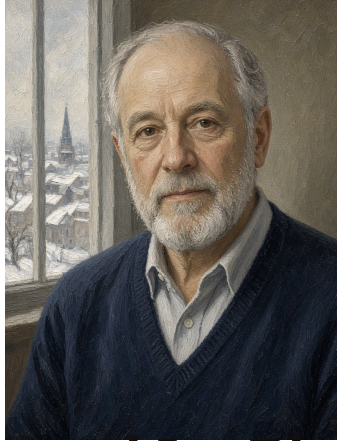




Samuel Ira Bloch

October 8, 1954 - August 31, 2026

Hartford, Connecticut

Samuel Ira Bloch died in Hartford on August 31, 2026. He was seventy-one. Born there on October 8, 1954, he grew up above a dry-goods store his uncle still called the shop, and he learned a claim file before he learned a campus. A form, he said, is a story that has to be true twice: once for the person and once for the company.

He spent twenty-nine years as an insurance adjuster, walking basements after ice dams and kitchens after a pan left on a burner. He did not enjoy the work the way a man enjoys a hobby. He enjoyed finishing it correctly. He would not let a widow be rushed. He would not let a contractor invent a cathedral ceiling. After a bad afternoon he sat in the car with the radio off until his hands were quiet.

He married Ellen Bloch in 1980. They raised a daughter in a two-family that needed storm windows and a son who needed a ride to Hebrew school at hours no one should be awake. Ellen taught piano. Samuel packed lunches and considered a Sunday bagel a civic obligation. After he retired he read the paper with a pencil and argued, fondly, with the letters page.

Friends remember a man who showed up to help move a dryer as if that were the natural use of a Saturday, who could explain a deductible without making it a sermon, and who kept one good coat. He loved a quiet gallery at the Atheneum, a cup of coffee that was never quite hot enough, and the river when it looked like metal. He died in Hartford, the insurance city he refused to narrate as a punch line. The files are closed. The fairness he practiced there is harder to replace than a policy number.

Services

A memorial in Hartford. A gift to a flood-relief fund or the public library suits him.

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