

Philanthropy [edit]

Weidenfeld served in many philanthropic capacities including Chairman of the [Ben Gurion University of the Negev](#) (1996–2004), Governor of the [Weizmann Institute](#), Vice-Chairman of the EU-Israel Forum, member of the Founding Council of the [Rothermere American Institute](#) at the [University of Oxford](#), Trustee, [Royal Opera House](#) (1974–87) and Trustee of the [National Portrait Gallery](#) (1988–95). He also established the "Weidenfeld Safe Havens Fund", which intends to support Christians fleeing the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant,^[7] although its focus on Christians has caused some criticism.^[8] ← (See article. He said he owed a debt to those who helped him escape long ago)

Awards and honours [edit]

Weidenfeld became a [British citizen](#) in 1947,^[9] was knighted in 1969,^[10] and created a [life peer](#) on 25 June 1976 taking the title **Baron Weidenfeld**, of Chelsea in the County of Greater London.^[11] He was appointed [Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire](#) (GBE) in the 2011 [New Year Honours](#) for public service.^[12]

Further honours included [Honorary Fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford](#), [Honorary Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford](#), Hon. Fellow, [King's College London](#), and Honorary D.Litt. from the [University of Exeter](#). He was made an [Honorary Senator of Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn](#), in 1996 and awarded the Degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, by [Oxford University](#) in 2010. He held the [German Knights Commanders Cross \(Badge & Star\) of the Order of Merit](#) (1991), the [Austrian Cross of Honour First Class for Arts and Science](#) (2002), the [Decoration of Honour in Gold for Services to the County of Vienna](#) (2003), the [Italian Grand Officer of the Order of Merit](#) (2005) and the [Order of Merit of the Land Baden-Württemberg](#) (2008). The [Polish Foreign Minister](#) awarded him with the [Bene Merito](#) distinction in 2011. He received the [London Book Fair/Trilogy Lifetime Achievement Award](#) for International Publishing in 2007 and the [Teddy Kollek Life Achievement Award](#) in Jerusalem in 2009.

Personal life [edit]

(Annabelle Whitestone was a concert agent (and mistress) for Arthur Rubenstein, who (at age 90!) eventually left his wife of 45 years for her (!). She is currently (now widowed by Lord Weidenfeld as of 2016) managing Menachem Pressler (see wiki).

Weidenfeld married Jane Sieff in 1952, daughter of Israel Sieff, Baron Sieff^[13] who was a part of the family that controlled Marks and Spencer. Before their divorce in 1955,^[14] they had one daughter:^[15]

- Laura Weidenfeld (b. 1953)

ALL of these links are interesting, including the many marriages (typically into families of influence and privilege — see Marks and Spencer — or the American Whitney Family (click on that a while!!)

After their divorce, he married [Barbara Skelton](#) (1916–1996), the [English](#) memoirist, novelist and socialite, in 1956, who had previously been married to [Cyril Connolly](#).^[16]

His third marriage was to [Sandra Payson Meyer](#) (1926–2004) in 1966.^{[15][17]} She was the daughter of Americans [Charles Shipman Payson](#) and [Joan Whitney](#), of the [Whitney family](#).^{[18][19][20]} They divorced 10 years later in 1976.^[14]

His fourth and final marriage was to [Annabelle Whitestone](#) (born c. 1946)^[21] who was 25 years his junior, in 1992. They remained married until his death in 2016.^{[3][22]}

He was a staunch supporter of Israel and was described as an "adamantine Zionist". Among his friends were politicians [Angela Merkel](#) and [Kurt Waldheim](#).^[23]

He died in London on 20 January 2016, aged 96^{[24][25]} and was honoured with burial on the [Mount of Olives](#) in Jerusalem.^{[26][23]} ←