

Philip Theodore Weinberg

July 23, 1938-March 16, 2012

Resident of Los Altos



"People remember my father for so many different things," his son David said. "For those of us who knew him best, he'll always be the guy with the strong arms and the great laugh."

Philip Weinberg was born in Philadelphia, PA on July 23rd, 1938. On March 16th of this year after a 40-day battle with congestive heart failure and pneumonia, he passed away at Stanford Hospital in Palo Alto, CA surrounded by his wife Elenore, sons Bill and David, and Bill's wife and daughters, Gianna, Sasha, and Daniella Cardinale-Weinberg. Phil adored them all and they will always continue loving him in return.

Phil's life was a study in variety, visible in his rare balance of accomplishment and pleasure in the arts and sciences. All who met him after he and his family moved to California in 1975 know the second act of Phil's life. The first reveals the young man who created the gentlemen so many respected and loved later on. At Philadelphia's Central High School radio station, as he shared his fellow techies' delight in sending music out into the homes and cars of listeners, Phil also immersed himself in Bach, Beethoven, Brahms - and Brubeck. While studying for his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, he was a favorite student of computing pioneer Admiral Grace Hopper. Ever multi-faceted, he pursued electives in Shakespeare, folklore, musicology, religious thought, and modern drama.

Phil's intimacy with symphonies, concertos, and jazz deepened at campus radio station WXPN, where he also had the thrill of interviewing U.S. Senator John F. Kennedy, a task he accomplished with incisiveness and wit. He shared cool, more melodic jazz with Elenore, still a high school kid, and she gave her amazing boyfriend the gift of Broadway that her parents had passed on to her. During summer vacations Phil worked on lighting and sound at WPTZ-TV. Again he blended technical talent, love of theater, and personal charm, becoming a favorite of broadcast pioneer Pete Boyle, host of "Lunch with Uncle Pete," a Philadelphia TV celebrity, and father of actor Pete Boyle, Jr.

Phil's first job after college with Westinghouse took him to Pittsburgh, PA, and a year later his new bride Elenore followed. There they lived a carefree life - he working at a job he loved, she studying French language, literature, and art at The University of Pittsburgh. Together they attended the renowned Pittsburgh Symphony and Opera, every Broadway show that came to town, and frequented their favorite jazz clubs. They eventually returned to Philadelphia where their sons were born and where Phil joined Motorola Semiconductor, Inc. in 1972.

The beauty, weather, and good schools in the Bay Area, and career enhancement at Motorola brought Phil and his family to California in 1975. A friend of his sons' generation recalled "Arriving in Santa Clara County about a year before the term 'Silicon Valley' gained widespread currency, Phil was one of the legion of front-line engineers who helped construct the modern computer industry. His was the first house I knew that had a computer in it. He took his teenage son Bill to meetings of the legendary Homebrew Computer Club attended by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and numerous others who would found Silicon Valley Companies. He was a man of extraordinary ability, intellect, strength, and presence, for whom I had the utmost respect."

After retiring from Motorola, Phil taught high school English, helping students in other classes learn trigonometry and calculus. He took time to perfect self-taught skills of cabinet design and carpentry. He and Elenore, lifelong travelers, finally visited Athens where they twice climbed the Acropolis to gaze in wonder at the Parthenon.

His son Bill's tribute speaks to everyone who loved Phil: "All who knew him will remember his wit and charm and adoration for his family, his love of music and theater, of teaching and of learning. He taught me calculus and chemistry, to fix cars and build computers, to use power tools and drive a stick shift, to love jazz and to hear all the parts of an orchestra, to ride a bike, to use a slide rule and read a schematic - and to make an omelet. Now, on my own, I'll have to learn to live without him."