



Dr. Albert I. Farbman

August 25, 1934 - February 10, 2022

Dr. Albert Irving Farbman, perpetually 39, died on February 10 at his Evanston home after a long decline due to Parkinson's Disease. Born August 25, 1934, in Boston, MA, he was the son of Benjamin and Pearl Farbman, immigrants who settled in Revere, MA. Al was a trickster of a sibling, who once sent his younger brother, Ken, to buy "green paint with white stripes" for a Ping-Pong table he was building with friends.

He internalized his parents' values of education by graduating from Boston Latin School and Harvard College (1955). He went on to earn a DMD from Harvard Dental School, and a PhD from New York University. In 1964, he began an illustrious 40-year career at Northwestern University. Early in his career, he became the first to describe the fine structure of taste buds using the electron microscope. Al served as Professor of Anatomy in the Medical/Dental Schools, the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and later as a professor in the undergraduate Department of Neurobiology and Physiology. His Evanston lab was known as the "Department of the Senses," where he continued his pioneering research on taste and smell. He wrote a sentinel book on the study of smell and was recognized with major awards in his field in 1991 and 1999. He took opportunities to study and collaborate with researchers around the world, welcoming them as students in his lab, visiting the labs of others, and working together from various locations. Toward the end of his career, he worked with colleagues to bring the complicated scientific, ethical, and legal issues of modern technologies to a public audience, inviting speakers to explain in lay language such topics as the Human Genome Project and stem cell research.

He was known as an outstanding researcher, teacher, mentor, and colleague in his professional life, and as a caring father, stepfather, grandfather, uncle, brother, and friend to many more in his personal life. He married Ruth Shacknow in 1961 and had three children. They later divorced and he married Winifred Vanderwalker Bondareff in 1978.

Al was an adventurous and generous traveler, from taking his young family around Europe before a sabbatical year in Cambridge, England, to allowing his young-adult children to tag along at scientific conferences in ski resorts, to vacationing with his children and grandchildren in Costa Rica and San Diego, to renewing his vows with Winifred in a native village in Ecuador. He hosted friends at a dining table that he built, serving his own Farbman Cellars Zinfandel. His children and grandchildren will always remember "Ride, Ride to Boston," the basket of wind-up toys near the front door, and his Christmas tree bread recipe.

Al was predeceased by his beloved wife, Winifred. He will be missed by their children; Lee Farbman, Caroline Farbman Moran, Peter Farbman, Hyla Bondareff, Sarah Bondareff; their spouses; his 8 grandchildren; his extended family; and his community.

Details of a Celebration of Life in the spring will be announced on this page at

<https://www.andersenmorganfuneralhome.com> Donations in his memory may be made to
Evanston Scholars <https://www.evanstonscholars.org/>

Tribute Wall

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A Memorial Tree was planted for Dr. Albert I. Farbman

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Andersen Morgan Funeral Home -
Franklin Park
