



Dr. Jerry Braunstein Obituary

December 24, 1922 - September 17, 2014

Dr. Jerry Braunstein, age 91, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, in his Clinton, Tenn. home.

He was born in New York, N.Y., on Dec. 24, 1922 to the late Simon and Sarah Braunstein, who emigrated from the Ukraine. He grew up in Washington Heights with his brother, Herman Braunstein. After attending Townsend Harris High School (Class of 1938) and City College of New York (Class of 1942), he worked on the Manhattan Project at Columbia University.

After World War II, he pursued graduate education at Wesleyan University. He was elected a fellow in Sigma Xi, the Science Research Society. In 1951, he received his Ph.D. in Chemistry from Northwestern University in Quantum Chemistry. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Washington and then served as a professor at the University of Maine at Orono for twelve years.

Dr. Braunstein transitioned to a research position in physical chemistry at Oak Ridge National Laboratory; his research focused on thermodynamics and electrochemistry of molten salts. His group's work led to two patents and about 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He was co-editor of a series of books, "Advances in Molten Salt Chemistry," and was elected chair of a Gordon Research Conference on Molten Salts. He retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory after over 23 years of service.

He was an opera aficionado. Over the past decades, he enjoyed operas in New York, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Santa Fe, New Orleans, Boston, Chicago, and Seattle, as well as Italy, France, England, and Germany. He had been a supernumerary (non-singing actor) in over a dozen Knoxville Opera productions-as a soldier, headwaiter, priest, and Roman nobleman. He served on the Board of the Knoxville Opera Guild, raising funds for the Opera Company for the last 10 years. He also served as co-director of the Middle and East Tennessee District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. He taught courses on opera in the Continued Learning program at the community college in Oak Ridge.

Additionally, he was a member of the Jewish Congregation of Oak Ridge and a Hadassah Associate. He had served as the education chair on JCOR's Board.

His passion for music, love of learning, and fondness for his family were contagious and

will outlive him.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Vallet Braunstein; three sons and their wives, Arthur and Renske Braunstein, David and Carol Braunstein, and Michael and Lori Braunstein; one daughter and her husband, Sarah and Jeffrey Woulfin; and six grandchildren, Rachel and Leah Braunstein, Eva Kelley and Andrea Braunstein, Hannah Braunstein, and Tobias Woulfin.

A Memorial Service will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 12:00 noon at Martin Funeral Home in Oak Ridge, Tenn. Burial will follow at 2:00 pm at Beth EL cemetery In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Knoxville Opera Company, Hadassah, or Friends of IDF.

Comments



“ Dear Catherine and family, we were so sorry to learn about Jerry's passing--we think of all the wonderful dinners we had--the meeting in Seattle was so special--and when you met us near your house in Knoxville! We remember well those meetings with Jerry during the opera intermissions. At this sad time our thoughts go out to you. Len and Sue Goran

Len and Sue Goran - Port Murray, NJ - opera friends - September 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I was blessed to have enjoyed opera with Jerry, online and in person. He was such a great, fun, gentleman and his knowledge and appreciation of music and life was a great treasure for others as well as himself. I will miss him. Much love and comfort to his family...he was so proud of all of you.

Deborah Green - Kansa city, KS - Opera friend - September 20, 2014 at 12:00 AM



“ I will always have the fondest memories of Jerry with his contagious smile, wonderful conversation and generosity to me and my family throughout the years. I send my deepest condolences to Catherine, Sarah and the family,

Sheri Levine Harmon - Knoxville, TN - friend - September 18, 2014 at 12:00 AM