



Andre Meir Saltoun

January 21, 1930 - July 17, 2020

Andre Meir Saltoun passed away peacefully, from heart failure, at his Montecito home on Friday, July 17, 2020 with his wife Michele by his side.

Andre was born in Baghdad, Iraq on January 21, 1930. Tragically, his parents were killed in an accident when he was one year old. Fortunately, Andre was surrounded by a large family who took care of him. At the age of 13, he left Baghdad to attend the American University of Beirut. Fluent in French, Arabic and English, as well as being a motivated student, Andre finished high school in three years. A teacher, seeing great promise in Andre, encouraged him to pursue higher education in the United States. Andre undertook a harrowing journey which included traveling on a coal boat filled with unsavory characters from Marseilles, France, to Galveston, Texas. A \$100 loan from a boat officer enabled Andre to get to the East Coast where bridge games and washing dishes paid for his successful completion of an undergraduate degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Andre saved money for seven years by working in a number of sales jobs, including driving a liquor truck, so that he could attend the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1957. Andre served as managing editor of the Wisconsin Law Review. Upon graduation from law school, Andre accepted an offer at the first and only international law firm at the time, Baker & McKenzie in Chicago. He joined the firm in 1960 when it had twenty-eight lawyers and

revenue of less than one million dollars. When Andre retired in 2005, the firm had 3200 lawyers, revenue of over two billion dollars and offices all over the world. Andre was one of the first lawyers to advise companies regarding the tax implications of operating internationally. Clients included Wrigley, International Paper, Levi-Strauss, Kellogg's, Sherwin Williams, Mattel and Sun Microsystems. Given his language skills and counsel to American and French multinationals, Andre worked closely with another senior partner, Christine Lagarde of Baker & McKenzie(Paris). Ms. Lagarde currently serves as President of the European Central Bank. Among many other professional recognitions, Andre was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 1975. This is the highest decoration awarded to a civilian by France, recognizing Andre for the many years he served as legal counsel to the French government in Chicago.

In the late 1980's Andre was asked to oversee the growth of Baker & McKenzie's offices in San Francisco and the Silicon Valley. With foresight, these offices became a substantial part of the firm's base. While Andre still served his clients in Chicago, the California weather beckoned him to relocate to the West Coast. Andre moved to San Francisco where he met his wife, Michele, in 1995. Their shared joy for exploring the world resulted in wonderful memories over many years and miles. As Andre looked forward to retirement in 2005, the couple chose Montecito, California as their new community to call home.

Andre enjoyed a very active life in Santa Barbara. Tennis was a passion supported by many years of play with the Montecito Tennis Mafia (lobs and drop shots) and memberships at the Santa Barbara Polo and Racquet Club (where Andre won a pie contest) and Birnam Wood Golf Club. At Birnam Wood Andre also enjoyed backgammon, bridge and countless social events with many friends. He loved classical music and was committed to the Community Arts Music Association (CAMA). Andre joined the CAMA Board in

2005 and served for 14 years, including as President from 2012 through 2015. CAMA awarded Andre with the honor of President Emeritus in 2019.

Andre is survived by his wife and partner of 25 years, Michele, who feels a tremendous loss. Beverly Saltoun, Andre's first wife, and their daughters Synthia Saltoun (Norm Siever), Myra Saltoun and Julie Saltoun (Fred Weiner), who reside in Southern California, will miss Andre as will Francine Saltoun (whom Andre married in 1960) and their daughters, Diane Saltoun (Bruce Braun), Josiane Saltoun and Carol Saltoun (Tim Calkins). All reside in Chicago, Illinois. Michele's extended family shares in her grief, especially her mother, Sandra Neely.

Andre cherished and is remembered with love by thirteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Andre considered his first cousins, spread across the globe, to be his brothers and sisters. He found great joy in the reunions and frequent communications shared with relatives in the U.S., Canada, England, France, Israel and Australia.

A celebration of Andre's life will be held when family and friends are able to gather, although a virtual shiva with close family is planned with Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaefer presiding.

Donations in Andre's memory may be made to Community Arts Music Association (CAMA) of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

Tribute Wall

MT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Mark Trueblood - July 30, 2020 at 04:12 PM

JS

“ I will always remember my beloved cousin Andre. He was so special to me and I admired him tremendously. He was brilliant, generous, kind and caring, and loving. He along with Michelle were the glue that has kept our extended family together. Although we are scattered all over the world, Andre and Michelle always hosted family reunions with such grace, elegance and joy that we all did our very best to be there. I will miss him.

Jeanne Saltoun - July 26, 2020 at 04:41 PM

AR

“ I met Andre as a client in 1995 right around the time he married lovely Michele. It was the right after the 2nd business meeting that we moved our relationship into a rich friendship that I would go on to cherish forever. Ironically, we met in San Francisco (dubbed Baghdad by the Bay by the late Herb Caen) and we were both born in the now forgotten city.

Andre was a gracious gentleman; an empathetic friend; a great legal mind with a business twist; and a fierce competitor if you ever played anything with him. Andre was a beacon of the great Iraqi Jewish diaspora – an amazing story of success with humility and so much impact on people like me.

As to memories, too many to recount – walking uphill pushing Rania in the stroller to have lunch with Andre and Michele while Zainab was studying for her dental board exam – all the outings we spent with my father, Samir and my father-in-law, Tahsin (RIP). Perhaps the funniest memory is when Andre and Michele were at our house and my uncle, Suhail, a recent arrival from the cafes of Baghdad beat Andre in backgammon and then, we had to go to dinner. Andre pulled me aside and said, let's make it quick as we have to get back to play some more so that I can beat your uncle. Andre's sense of humor put everyone at ease – old, young and in between. Another memory in Montecito, when he proudly walked me around the garden to show me duplication of trees from the land between 2 rivers that neither of us would ever see again. As usual, the nostalgia went straight into talking about his cousins in Australia and elsewhere.

My dear friend Andre, I am forever indebted for your friendship and will fondly miss you until we meet again -- RIP. Shalom, Salam and Peace.

Michele, we love you and are honored to be your friends. Stay strong. Our deepest condolences to you and the extended family.

Take care,

Ahmed Rubaie and Family
Monte Sereno, CA

Ahmed Rubaie - July 24, 2020 at 03:01 PM

OS

odette saltoon

*I meet Audre I Sydney after hearing a lot about him from Meit as Meir loved and admire him so when I meet him I feel in love with this handsome intellectual cousin he and Michelle come to Sydney for our simchas and we went to visit quite often for cousins reunions which Michelle was so hospitable MEIR and me loved every minute of it thank you Michelle and I feel for your loss he was just a great person be strong
love you very much
odette and Meir*

odeete saltoon - July 25, 2020 at 09:33 PM

TL

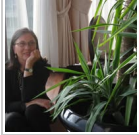
“ *Andre will always be missed by all who knew and loved him. A favorite memory for me is the Safari trip Bill and I took with Andre and Michelle in 2006. Andre was the lightening rod in our group. My condolences to his wonderful family.*
TJ

TJ Locker - July 24, 2020 at 12:57 PM



“ *Andre was one of the finest, smartest, kindest, thoughtful and most elegant men I have ever known. He made the world a better place. He was there for me when I most needed support and friendship, always faced life's challenges with discipline, wisdom and humor, and he will be missed.*

David Wolf - July 24, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ *The first time I got to know Andre was in 2010 at the Saltoun Family reunion/trip in Israel. I was so impressed by his love of life. He was such a good sport through everything.*

My husband, Amnon, and his family always spoke fondly of Andre. They were so proud of all of his achievements. His life story is so interesting it could fill a book.

Amnon and I send sincere wishes that your family will find solace in the fact that Andre passed away with Michele by his side.

Cathy and Amnon Ezra

Catherine Ezra - July 23, 2020 at 11:32 AM

JC

“ *Andre was always the prince of the Saltoun family. He was always so smart, charming, handsome. He was always loved and respected for his amazing business sense and love and generosity for family. The best memories of Andre for me were the wonderful parties and reunions he and Michelle hosted. It was always a time of laughter, music, dancing, great food, great conversations, seeing, meeting and learning about our family.*

*When in need - Andre helped me with my mother's trust and will. I will never forget his constant generosity to me and all the family. He and Michelle were a wonderful team. As I've said before I believe when he passed all his family and friends greeted him at heavens gate. I suspect it will be a wonderful reunion for everyone. My cousin Andre will always be missed. Till we meet again ... love,
jeanie Coggan*

Jeanie Coggan - July 22, 2020 at 08:40 PM