



Dr. Gerhard Rohringer

October 4, 1931 - July 25, 2011

Rohringer, Gerhard

Gerhard died July 25, 2011 after a very short illness. He was born October 4, 1931 in Graz, Austria and was the oldest son of Ludwig and Elvira Rohringer. He graduated from the University of Vienna with a PHD in physics with a Summa Cum Laude and a master in mathematics in 1954.

Gerhard came to the United States in 1955 under a government sponsored program that enlisted scientists from Europe. He worked for General Electric in Ithaca, New York until he was transferred to Santa Barbara in 1958 to work at GE Tempo. While at Tempo, he took pre med classes at UCSB.

Gerhard then worked at GRC until he went to medical school in 1981 and graduated with top honors. He completed his residency at Irvine and began his medical practice with Dr. Ure and Togstad in Santa Barbara. After being in private practice, Gerhard went to work for the Santa Barbara County clinics. He was the Internist for the Psychiatric Health Facility until his retirement in 2007.

After retirement, he became interested in microscopy, computer generated pictures and translations of texts.

Gerhard is survived by his brothers Peter who resides in Switzerland, Ernst in Germany and Sister Christa in Austria, and several nieces and nephews.

The family thanks Dr. Woliver, Dr. Armet and Dr. Peus as well as the staff of the E.R., 4 South, MICU and 6C for the outstanding care that he received and the compassion that was given to him by all of the staff.

There will be a celebration of his life on Saturday, August 6, 2011 by friends at his home at 1 P.M. Arrangements by Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapels.

Tribute Wall

GA

“ Dear uncle Gerhard
It has been 11 years since you have passed
away. You are staying in my heart forever. I will
never forget you.
With love and appreciation yours,
Alice Goldenberg



Goldenberg Alice - September 19, 2022 at 06:45 PM

AL

“ Alice lit a candle in memory of Dr. Gerhard
Rohringer



Alice - September 27, 2018 at 02:36 PM

AB

“ Dear Barbara
Almost every day I am still thinking about my
uncle Gerhard, a wonderful person and medical
doctor. He is and will be always in my heart and
I hope that my prayers will arrive him. All the
best and lot s of love Alice.B.



Alice Baertsch - January 07, 2018 at 04:04 AM

“It is by chance and superb luck that I met Gerhard some ten years ago. He had posted something on an Internet history forum and mentioned he was originally from Linz, Austria. I had recently been to that idyllic town on the Danube and had a question regarding a new bridge that had been put in place there. I asked Gerhard about it and soon we were debating about the number of pylons supporting that bridge. Gerhard, naturally, turned out to be correct, and I was left wishing to meet this obviously intelligent and exacting person. I suggested we meet for lunch. He agreed and suggested Fess Parker’s hotel restaurant because, “They won’t disturb customers even if they stay for three hours.” So that we would recognize each other, I indicated I’d be wearing a red shirt, and he said he had “white hair.”

It was a delightful meeting, and I would discover over time that Gerhard was far more than he might at first seem to be. His knowledge of economics, politics, history, math, physics, medicine, biology, psychology, languages, and microphotography was profound. He was a great source for authoritative information, but one time I was surprised with his not being able to answer a question regarding gyroscopes. He bluntly stated, “I know nothing about gyroscopes.” This was the first time I was not able to get an answer from him -- with the usual accompanying drawing or diagram. But it also demonstrated that Gerhard dealt only in that which he knew, and didn’t dabble in guesses or approximations. One of Gerhard’s notable characteristics was his kindness. It was manifested in his treatment of persons and animals. One could say he was an equal with Albert Schweitzer in his reverence for life. Though gophers, ground squirrels and chipmunks were playing havoc with his lawn and garden, he would trap them live and carefully relocate them to some suitable place miles away. His beloved friend, Barbara, can relate many stories regarding the trips she took with Gerhard on such relocation missions. Gerhard was a mere child when WWII was underway. The town of Linz was bombed many times and he was relocated for his safety to a relative’s farm near Graz. His stories about this time would make me spellbound.

The existence on the farm was far different from town life and he had much adjusting to do. He was given one large spoon for his meals and it was up to him to clean and keep track of it. He was lucky, as food was adequate and quite good. He described to me the large, flat loaves of rye bread that were baked out-of-doors in kilns. Because of this method of cooking, the loaves emerged with a thick, impregnable, carbon- incrustrated outer layer, which kept them preserved until the loaves were sliced. He described the taste of this bread, smeared with butter, as one of the greatest delicacies he'd ever consumed. Also, he told of the trips he took to the miller in a horse-drawn wagon to deliver pumpkin seeds, which would there be pressed to extract oil. These trips always took a very long time, because the farmhand manning the wagon was very devout and would stop and pray at every religious shrine (martr?) along the way.

Once hostilities ceased, Gerhard moved back to the family apartment in Linz. The windows of their home had been blown out and a section of trolley rail had pierced the roof and lodged in the upstairs, third floor. He related that rainwater would leak in and freeze, and if one were inclined, it would be possible to ice skate on this floor.

They had Russian troops occupying the bottom floor and they treated the Rohringer family fairly well.

Citizens of Linz had had all their modes of transportation commandeered. Particularly enticing to Gerhard were the bicycles Russians had collected and sealed up in a church. Through a small passageway, he found a way to get into this church and he smuggled out, piece by piece, a bike, which he used for several years.

Having heard many of his stories about the time of Allied occupation, I gather that Gerhard was no stranger to pranks and derring-do. As an adult, his bro

ML

(There must be a word-limit to comments as mine was truncated two-thirds of the way through) Here is the rest:

As an adult, his broad smile I would describe as mischievous. No doubt it was imprinted during those childhood years.

Gerhard was always a brilliant student. In Gymnasium, he was particularly intent on excelling in Latin, and he told me that under the Allied "Re-education" program, millions of books were destroyed throughout Germany and Austria. The criterion for selecting such books for the ash heap was their publishing date, regardless of the subject matter. During this time, Gerhard was assigned to help the school librarian select those books to be destroyed. Among them was a German-to-Latin, Latin-to-German translation book. Gerhard wanted this book badly, and he pled with the Librarian and was subsequently allowed to take it home and keep it. His scores in Latin wound up being the second highest in the district.

After his advanced degrees in Physics and Mathematics were earned at University of Vienna (1954?), Gerhard sought employment, but there was none to be had in his field in Austria. He then applied to the Phillips Corporation in the Netherlands, but was informed that it was their firm policy to hire no German speaking applicants. It was fortunate that the United States had no such restriction, and Gerhard was brought to America by the General Electric Company.

It has been noted that Gerhard went on to become an MD and practiced for over a decade in Santa Barbara.

One of his many sideline achievements was his translation of a certain thirty-five page pamphlet produced in German in the 19th Century. This was an oft quoted, and oft misquoted document, which was of high historical importance, but only a very few copies were available, and those were only in German. Gerhard read the document in German, and made note of the many times it had been misquoted. Misquotes were produced by those who knew better or had not actually read the document. He then translated the pamphlet into English with thorough and helpful annotations. The translation created quite a stir and was broadly acclaimed. It was by any measure a grand accomplishment and put an end to misquotes.

Gerhard was my dear friend. I am in awe of his accomplishments and very thankful for having known him. His passing away affects me deeply, and it came at such a terrible time just a few months after the passing of my wife, Sandra. During her illness, Gerhard was very helpful with his compassionate words and advice. I now miss him and his e-mails and our luncheon discussions. But again, I am thankful. He was given and now he's been taken away. That's life, I guess. My heart goes out to Barbara, and his siblings, Peter, Ernst and Christa.

Mike Lilly - September 06, 2011 at 04:16 AM

BS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Barabra Stangl - August 14, 2011 at 03:52 AM

BS

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Barabra Stangl - August 14, 2011 at 03:40 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Helen Rohringer - August 13, 2011 at 02:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Barbara Stangl - August 10, 2011 at 11:14 AM



“ *Dear Barbara,*

It is difficult to express my empathy to you since I feel so much with you and know, how difficult the last three weeks have been.

I remember how eager Gerhard expected your daily telephone morning phone calls to make plans for the day and meeting you.

In the meantime he worked really hard, either on his outstanding and unique computer graphics, on his microscopy work where he succeeded in so many awards or with translations or history studies and his wide email friendship to so many people, as well as his constant communication to me.

I myself lost not only a caring brother but also somebody, whom I regard as a second father and a teacher, especially concerning perception of human life. He took care of me since I was three years old whenever he could.

Peter Rohringer - August 10, 2011 at 11:03 AM

HS

Hallo Peter, weiss nicht ob Du Dich an mich erinnerst, ich hab oft versucht Gerhards e-mail zu finden, ohne erfolg, aber nicht gefunden, wusste aber doch viel über Gerhards weg, und so hab ich auch schnell über internet die traurige Nachricht erhalten und will Dir mein mitgefühl ausdrücken. nach linz, und wien hab ich ihn vor vielen jahren wieder in santa barbara gesehen, seinen lebensweg und seine art bewundert und mich immer gern an ihn erinnert, es ist auch ein verlust für mich.
- Heinz Spiesberger

Heinrich Spiesberger - April 10, 2012 at 02:54 PM

BS

“ *We were so sad to hear about Gerhard. He was one of a kind, and our Christmas Eve Dinners at your house together with everybody are some of my fondest memories. He will be missed, our prayers are with you*

Letter from David, MEG, Gracie and Faith

Barbara Stangl - August 10, 2011 at 09:36 AM

BS

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Barbara Stangl - August 09, 2011 at 10:13 PM

BS

“ Your letter came as a real shock. Gerhard came to my wife's memorial the end of January, and we briefly renewed our friendship, at least to the point where I could find his house and share an old boice-ripper with Leni Riefenstahl as a star.

I consider him a bright and superbly honest man and am terribly sorry to hear the bad news. The world is poorer.

Letter from John

Barbara Stangl - August 08, 2011 at 11:21 AM

BS

“ Thank you for sending the very sad message about Gerhard. We have been communicating via e-mail for about five years. I am in the Sacramento area.

I helped Gerhard select and set up his Olympus BX-51 compound microscope and his Leica Z16 zoom microscope. We were both avid microscopists. He was passionate for this work and was a true mentor for me. We worked on many projects and specimens, compared results, discussed them and tested our theories. We also discussed coputers and software.

He was working on a new backyard patio deck. He sent me a picture of it. It is very hard to belive that he has gone only ten days from his last message me. I very much miss him.

Letter from Gary

Barbara Stangl - August 08, 2011 at 11:10 AM

BS

“ We are very sorry to hear that Gerhard left us. Although far away, we miss his sarcastic humor and smart conversation. As you know good times in Santa Barbara and had forgotten the bad ones a long time ago. I was happy to see you guys the last time I visited S.B. and enjoyed your graceful hospitslity. Somehow we hoped that you two would visit us in Mexico. I always adimired Gerhard for his determination and for his self-discipline in changing his field radically from Physics to Medicine which allowed him to keep his beloved home and be near you. We have indeed lost a very dear friend and will always remember him fondly. Thank you for letting us know and share your pain with us.

Letter from Meryem and Mark

Barbara Stangl - August 08, 2011 at 10:34 AM

BS

“ Let me express my sympathy at the loss of your loved one.

Before my retirement I worked with Dr.Rohringer at the Psychiatric Health Faculty in Santa Barbara.

He will be remembered by me for his genuine interest in the health needs of our patients there - never was he too busy to answer staff persons' questions about our own health issues. He was such an intelligent and caring person.

May he rest in peace!

Letter from Karen Loughlin, R.N.

Barbara Stangl - August 07, 2011 at 05:11 PM

MR

“ *Gerhard was in love with his house and his garden. Especially with his avocado orchard.*

This, of course, was a reflection of his most methodical personality which was epitomized by his heroic battle with the gophers that were destroying his garden. Catching a gopher, boiling it, thus removing all fur, skin and organs and exhibiting in a velvet cloth in his study the perfectly preserved skeleton was perhaps the earliest manifestation of his vocation for the medical profession while still being a physicist!.

Marcos Rosenbaum - August 05, 2011 at 01:59 PM