



## Raymond J. Schinhofen

February 20, 1934 - February 15, 2021

Raymond. J. Schinhofen

Age 86, passed away on February 15, 2021, from complications of the corona virus. A native Pittsburgher, Ray received his degree in architecture from Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University). He was in private practice for over 40 years, designing residential, commercial, and institutional projects and receiving numerous awards for historic restoration and contextual historical design. In addition, Ray served on the City of Pittsburgh's Art Commission and as Board President of the East End Food Co-op.

He was a longtime member of the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh, serving on the Building Committee as well as the Green Sanctuary Team, which he helped to establish. Ray was also instrumental in having a geothermal heat pump system installed at First Church, translating his environmental principles into reality. For many years, he taught "Exploring Pittsburgh's Architectural Heritage" for Osher at Carnegie Mellon University, bringing to the classroom what has been described as an irresistible enthusiasm for his subject and ending the course with a walking tour through downtown Pittsburgh, urging everyone to "Look up! Look up!"

Ray loved to travel, and among his most cherished memories were trips to

Europe, especially to Florence, and the annual summer vacations he spent with his family on North Carolina's Emerald Isle. He was interested in everything and everyone and he will be remembered above all for his zest for life, his masterful storytelling, and his tendency to burst into song for no apparent reason. He was also an exuberant host — the annual New Year's Eve parties "at the Schinhofens" remain the stuff of legend.

Ray is survived by Mary, his beloved wife of nearly 67 years; their children Kate (Steve Flatten), Jeannemarie, Lisa (Howard Waxman), David (Kristen Pett), and Jonathan (Beth Myers); grandchildren Mija, Korey, Makala, Watumbe, Devin, Dylan, Rayna, David, Nevin, and Isadora; and great-grandchildren Sofia, Bella, and Bodhi.

A memorial service will be held at the First Unitarian Church at a date to be announced.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Raymond J. Schinhofen*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *My deepest sympathies to the entire family. Ray bought me my first Italian sub at Mineos, I remember eating it in his VW van with a pack of Cub Scouts. He introduced me to SNL at sleepovers. And I have some great memories of those parties.*

*Love to all,*

*David McCall*

David McCall - February 22, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *I adored Ray and all of the Shinhofens. Their house, their warmth, their send if fun and wonder. And my wacky, wonderful daughter, spoke of Ray like he was her equal and her friend. And he treated her the same, unless she was sleeping in his bathtub!*

Mary Litman - February 22, 2021 at 10:12 AM



“ *Ray (“Mr. Schinhofen” to me!) was unfailingly warm and welcoming whenever this random acquaintance of his sons wandered by the house, far beyond what was called for. I spent more New Years Eves at the Schinhofens than I deserved, and it was always a joy to be with the family and friends. Such a warm, loving space. Thank you for everything. May his memory be a blessing.*

Christian Wedemeyer - February 21, 2021 at 10:48 PM

DG

“ We remember with fondness the friendship our two families have shared over the years. My mother Doris appreciated Ray’s generosity and efforts in arranging the wonderful architectural tours of Pittsburgh through the Osher program.

---

**Diego Gonzalez** - February 21, 2021 at 09:27 PM

SS

“ Ray not only made me a better builder, he made me a better person.  
Kind, compassionate, demanding excellence from everyone he worked with and always willing to teach. Full of wisdom and passion for not only his craft, but for ordinary people who he enjoyed getting to know and understand. A gentleman always.  
Some people talk about making a difference but they usually don't. Raymond absolutely did... because he cared.  
A real zest for life and living..he will be long remembered and sadly missed.  
Goodbye my good friend.

---

**Saverio Strati** - February 19, 2021 at 01:40 PM

JC

“ I will always remember his presence in the choir as an enthusiastic tenor and lover of music. He had a lot of wisdom that I envied.

---

**James Cunningham** - February 18, 2021 at 08:10 PM