



Sidney Friedman

January 24, 1926 - January 26, 2021

Sidney "Sid" Friedman, PhD

Research Chemist

Aged 95, the "Gentleman Jogger of Squirrel Hill" passed peacefully Jan 26 with family at his side, 2 months after his last grocery walk.

Devoted husband of the late Sally, beloved father of Neal (Serena), Amy, and Daniel, and grandson Jesse, a neighborhood icon, recognized by many, always wearing trademark black socks and blue backpack as he walked, or jogged, around Squirrel Hill daily for 25 years. Up Beacon hill then down Bartlett (taking extra laps for stamina into his 90s), he returned home with a backpack of groceries after a stop in the library. He ran the Great Race 10k aged 72.

A world traveler, Sid visited 50 countries on all 7 continents, endowing his offspring with a love of travel. Along the way he rode a hot air balloon in Tanzania, ziplined at age 87 with his grandson in Alaska, climbed the Great Wall of China, and river-rafted in Nepal.

Growing up in Massachusetts during the Depression he delivered groceries, worked in textile mills, his mother's catering business, and a ship yard. He

saved pennies to buy chemicals from the pharmacy for his basement chemistry lab, using glass bottles from the neighborhood bootlegger. After Army service in WWII (Pacific theater) Sid took only 4 ½ years to earn chemistry degrees from Purdue (BS) and Harvard (PhD) on the GI Bill. A research fellowship at Mellon Institute brought him to Pittsburgh, followed by 41 years as a research organic chemist for the US Bureau of Mines, later Dept. of Energy, where he began a routine of afternoon power walks.

A true scholar and gentleman, kindly and full of stories, a supporter of good journalism, education, and the arts, may his life and memory inspire everyone to walk, to travel, and to learn.

Remembrances may be made to the Jewish Federation, Congregation Dor Hadash, or the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

Professional services trusted to D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY LTD., Lawrenceville.

Cemetery Details

Homewood Cemetery

Dallas & Aylesboro Avenues
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 29. 11:30 AM (ET)

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Dallas & Aylesboro Avenues
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Tribute Wall



“ *Sidney Friedman*

January 13, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ *Your family was one of the pillars of Woodwell Street, and Sid has been a really good friend to my mother these past several years. I am very saddened to hear about this, and send my love to all of you.*

Gwendolyn Schmidt - January 31, 2021 at 09:37 AM



“ *I did not know your father well, and only spoke with him once a year regarding his Federation commitment, however, i looked forward to that phone call every year! Your Father was the sweetest, kindest person i spoke with and we always had a wonderful conversation about life. He was appreciative for everything he had and was always upbeat and content. There is so much to learn from him and his way of life! It was an honor and a privilege for me to know him. May his memory be for a Blessing - i will miss speaking with him! Warmest wishes to the entire family, our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

judi kanal

judi kanal - January 29, 2021 at 09:10 AM

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“ Sid was a great mentor to me and many at the Pittsburgh energy lab. We could always depend on him to find just the right reference in the tall stacks upon his desk to shed light on our problem. He was also a great reviewer of our publications not just technically but also correcting english usage. Besides that he was just fun to talk to. He loved to travel and I thought he would make a great travel agent in retirement if he chose to. He was missed when he retired and will be missed even more as he leaves this world. God bless you and take you into his care Sid.
With find memories, Karl.

Karl Schroeder - January 28, 2021 at 06:06 PM