



Allan Wirth

November 14, 1928 - December 27, 2019

In the early morning hours of December 27, 2019, Allan passed away. He was born in 1928 in Lawrence, MA to Robert C. Wirth and Frances Humphrey. Allan attended Lowell Tech and received a degree in Chemistry, specializing in dyes and fabrics. He met his future wife, Phyllis, after picking out her shoe from a box at a Halloween dance. Following their marriage, Allan took a job as a Research Chemist with Dow Chemical in San Francisco, CA., where his family grew with the addition of Dorothy and Christine. While at Dow, Allan was honored to have worked alongside Linus Pauling, a Nobel Prize recipient. The family relocated to Williamsburg, VA where he set up a new research lab for Dow and accumulated numerous patents in his name. There, the family welcomed their third daughter Betsy. Shortly after, Allan left his position to attend Princeton Seminary and obtained a degree in Theology. Upon graduation in 1964, he served as a minister at the First Presbyterian Church in Hudson, NY until 1971. During his orientation at First Presbyterian, he made a visit to the last member of the renowned Church family residing at Olana. In the community room of the church, Allan helped to create the Hudson Day Care Center. In 1972, he combined his passion for chemistry and love for people to become a Chemistry teacher at Hudson High School, where he would go on to be the head of the Science Department during the '70's and '80's.

Allan and Phyllis were together for 65 wonderful years. They loved to travel,

mountain climb, camp and bird watch, especially with their friends, Katy and Stan Bardwell. Allan was passionate about protecting the environment and sailed with his family on the Clearwater. He was President of the Catskill 3500 Club, having climbed all the mountains in the range over 3500 feet in all four seasons, sometimes accompanied by his faithful dog Shanti. Upon retirement, he received much enjoyment as a volunteer at the Claverack Library and volunteered as a bird counter for Cornell University for many years. He was an avid vegetable gardener, supplying L' Hostellerie Bressane, Hillsdale, NY with the best shallots the chef had seen outside of France. He was an excellent cook, handing down this passion to his daughters. His love for classical music continued throughout his life and comforted him at the end of his days. His daughters loved hearing stories Allan would tell about being babysat by Leonard Bernstein while growing up in Lawrence.

Allan is predeceased by his brother, Robert; sister, Geraldine Wirth Kirk, her husband, Oliver, and their son, David. He leaves behind his beloved wife Phyllis; daughters Dorothy, Christine (John) Sejan, and Betsy (Renee Stone); grandchildren Adelaide and Sam Sejan; niece Allison Kirk and several other nieces and nephews. He was Papa to Joslyn, Emily and Kat and father to his beloved cat Morris. A special thank you to Jackie who cared for both Phyllis and Allan at home over the past couple years. We cannot thank you enough. Aside from family, Allan touched and influenced many lives. He accepted everyone for who they were and made everyone feel special. He was particularly passionate about his students at Hudson High.

He will be celebrated in the hearts of many. Fly high Papa!

There are no calling hours. A celebration of his life will be held in early summer at the convenience of the family.

Tribute Wall

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“ Uncle Allan was a brilliant person, interested in almost everything from chemistry to religion to social justice to the environment to technology. Teaching chemistry to high school students is no easy task yet he enjoyed every minute of it. He was so good at cooking he could've been a master chef on one of today's reality shows. Hiking all the mountains in the Catskills was punishing to his knees so he turned to the IPad and music for enjoyment in his later years. He so loved reading and playing games on the IPad. I'll miss seeing him sitting in the livingroom, sometimes with Morris the cat in his lap, but mostly holding his IPad. But he would always look up in case you were interested in a conversation. His daughters cared for him so he was able to stay at home until his passing at 91. He'll be loved forever by his family and all who knew him.

Phyllis Gunn - March 17, 2021 at 02:39 PM

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“ Eating the Anadama bread and the Welsh Rarbit that scared me thinking I was eating rabbit. He was so kind to me considering all the hanging around I did. He was like a dad to me. I will always remember him with much love.

Becky Armstrong - January 11, 2020 at 06:32 PM