



## Mandar Sunthankar

November 9, 2020

Mandar Balakrishna Sunthankar, 75, passed away at his home in Fort Collins, CO on Monday the 9th of November, 2020.

Mandar was born on December 24th, 1944 in Belgaum, Maharashtra, India, to historian and revolutionary, Balakrishna Sunthankar, and his wife Kusum. He is the second of two sons, and grew up in Belgaum with his older brother, Avinash, attending primary school after the revolution in 1947.

A self-proclaimed “good but lazy” student, Mandar finished primary school and attended College of Engineering, Pune, Maharashtra, where he earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1969. In 1971 he was accepted by University of Connecticut to study at Storrs, where he earned his master’s degree. That year, Mandar also married his long-time love, Shivalini “Lena” Sabnis who joined him in Connecticut in 1972.

In 1973, they had their first child, their son Sumit, followed by a daughter, Shilpa, in 1976. After Mandar’s graduation, they moved to Broomfield, CO, where Mandar worked with technology manufacturing company NCR. In 1981, the family moved to Fort Collins to settle down, and Lena started her own medical practice, Alpine Family Care. After several years at NCR, Mandar ventured into his own business and started the accoladed lonedge Corporation, which focused at first on superconductors. Eventually, Mandar developed other technologies, including a patented environmentally safe process and equipment for metal coating. He is a specialist in the engineering field in developing scientific process for businesses, and after selling his company, he became a consultant for businesses applying for government grants and integrating process into engineering-based workplaces.

Mandar lived an active life to the fullest, embracing the Colorado lifestyle, whether making merry with family and friends, traveling with Lena to exciting locations like Peru or Turkey, or taking simple weekly rides on the old bike Sumit left behind in the garage. As Hindus, and having been active members of the Colorado State University India Association,

Mandar and Lena often welcomed foreign students or Indian families from out of town to enjoy Thanksgiving in the warmth of their home, and for many years hosted popular, festive Hindu holidays like Ganesh Pooja for the Fort Collins community. They were key organizers in bringing together the Indian Community in Northern Colorado.

Mandar is described by those who love him as young at heart, vibrant, and fun, someone who rarely let life get him down. He was a voice of reason, and active planner for the future, but also someone unafraid of trying something new and having a blast doing it- hearing new music, trying a new dish, going to a new place, starting an innovative business venture. He loved dancing to a song with a good beat, doing something that his children's friends to this day still call, "The Mandar."

He will be sorely missed by his large circle of friends and family across the globe, and is survived by his wife, brother, both children and their spouses, and their King Charles Spaniel, Milli.

A Celebration of Life will be planned for the spring.

# Comments

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“ Shilpa, Dan called to tell us the very sad news. Mike and I are so very sorry about your Dad's passing. We send our deepest heartfelt sympathy to you and your mother and your brother. Perhaps we can see you at your Dad's Celebration of Life in the Spring. Love from Denise & Mike



**Denise Esposito** - November 19, 2020 at 05:51 PM

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“ Denise Esposito lit a candle in memory of Mandar Sunthakar



**Denise Esposito** - November 19, 2020 at 05:35 PM

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“ Shilpa: Our deepest sympathy to you, your Mom and your brother. Mike and I are so very sorry about your Dad's passing. Dan called from Oregon to give us the sad news. I then read the obituary in the paper and looked at all the wonderful pictures. We hope to share the Celebration of Life with you in the Spring.

**Denise Esposito** - November 19, 2020 at 05:34 PM



“ Thank you Denise.

**shilpa sunthakar** - November 30, 2020 at 03:52 PM

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“ It was an honor to have known Mandar and I will always hold fond memories of our interactions over the past few years.



**Todd Cornell** - November 14, 2020 at 06:36 PM



“ Thank you Todd- he was truly and special, insightful, and fun person for a lot of people it sounds like. We're very comforted to hear that.

**shilpa sunthankar** - November 17, 2020 at 08:22 PM



“ I recently heard of Mandar's passing while speaking with my daughter Sharon and we were wondering how the Sunthankars were doing. I was very much saddened to hear this news. My previous wife Sandra and I were the host family for Mandar and Lena while he was a student at UCONN. In 1988 Sandra, Sharon and I visited the Sunthankars in Fort Collins. At the time Sharon was a junior in high school. She was very much impressed with Fort Collins and CSU after Mandar took us on a tour of the campus. As a result Sharon attended CSU graduating in 1995 and is now raising her family in Littleton. Mandar was a good friend and certainly had a positive impact on many lives. I have fond memories of our times back in Connecticut. My deepest sympathy to Lena, Shilpa and Sumit.  
May he rest in peace.

James Zelle  
Evansville, Indiana

**James Zelle** - November 19, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Hi Jim, great to hear from you! Yes, we all have fond memories of your visit in 1988, and lots of Connecticut photos. Thank you for your lovely words.

**shilpa sunthankar** - November 30, 2020 at 03:51 PM



“ This was a tragic loss. He was a long time friend and fellow volunteer. He and Lena helped found Indian association and actively participated in various aspects of organizing events. He also helped revive the association and helped develop the new constitution. He also helped organize our little restaurant group. He shared his joy with all of us.

**Yash Malaiya** - December 01, 2020 at 07:23 PM



“ Thank you for sharing your experience Uncle. Yes, he did help do some inspiring things, and he certainly did share his joy with everyone.

**shilpa sunthankar** - December 09, 2020 at 08:16 PM

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“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



**Goes Funeral Care & Crematory** - November 13, 2020 at 11:37 AM