



Richard Donald Herschopf

April 9, 1922 - February 1, 2015

Richard D. "Dick" Herschopf

April 9, 1922-February 1, 2015

Richard D. Herschopf, 92, a Ft. Collins resident for 46 years, passed away at home on February 1, 2015, following a stroke in November. Dick lived his life fully and made his mark on the world. When asked how he wanted to be remembered after his death, Dick said, "that I was always interested in the good of the country and of mankind, and tried to help bring about a better world through political work for peace, civil liberties, the preservation of the environment, and social and economic justice for all people."

Dick was born April 9, 1922 in New York City and grew up in a close-knit Jewish family, the son of Irving and Shirley Herschopf, with his younger sister Dorothy, whom he adored. He enjoyed school, played stickball in the street with friends, rooted for the Brooklyn Dodgers, and loved listening to music and engaging in lively conversations. Dick was a proud product of Brooklyn public schools; his quick mind and incredible memory enabled him to graduate from Boys High School at age 16.

Continuing his education at Brooklyn College, Dick majored in history and planned to become a teacher. In November 1942, he was one semester shy

of graduating when he was drafted. Dick was honorably discharged in 1946; because of his service, the college granted him the missing credits and dated his Bachelor's degree June 1943. Dick was proud to have served in the Allies' fight against fascism and the Nazis.

After the war, Dick enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue an advanced degree. He earned his Master's in History in 1949, and a second Master's in Library Science in 1959. At the university Dick met the love of his life, Marian, who was also a graduate student and a Holocaust escapee from Vienna. He knew from early on that she was special—his intellectual equal and someone who shared the vision of promoting a more fair, just and peaceful world. They were married August 29, 1948 and remained happily married for more than 66 years.

Dick began his career as a librarian at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and then became Head Librarian at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado in 1961. He worked the last 17 years of his career as Associate Director of Libraries at Colorado State University. Dick demonstrated great dedication to his profession, his colleagues and the communities they served, and retired as a respected and valued professional in 1985.

Dick's commitment to social justice and civil rights was unwavering. He contributed to and volunteered for many organizations, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Rocky Flats Coalition. He also supported his local community by working on political campaigns and volunteering as a "Reading Buddy" at Putnam Elementary School.

Dick was an avid reader, an inveterate consumer of news and information and a life-long learner, attending lectures, taking Front Range Forum and Elderhostel classes, and traveling to many foreign countries. An eclectic

music-lover, Dick was especially fond of jazz and was a member of the Northern Colorado Traditional Jazz Society. He and Marian were regulars at Avogadro's jazz concerts, and particularly enjoyed listening to the Poudre River Irregulars. They were also season ticket holders to the Fort Collins Symphony, OpenStage Theatre and Bas Bleu Theatre for many years. While living in Gunnison, Dick tested out his amateur acting chops with the Webster Players and also learned to cross-country ski. He loved the outdoors; Dick and Marian hiked or skied with friends almost every weekend. He appreciated art, good food and a good joke. Dick had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh.

Above all else, Dick's family was his priority; he demonstrated his love for and pride in each of them. An early feminist, Dick encouraged and supported his daughters and granddaughters in all their endeavors. To Dick, "family" meant extended family, and he got tremendous pleasure from spending time with relatives; he recalled their many visits and reunions with great fondness.

Dick was truly interested in people from all walks of life and made many life-long friends. Though he had strong opinions, he was open to new ideas and listened to others' perspectives. Dick treated everyone with dignity and respect, no matter their race, religion, or economic or social status. Many people experienced the exceptional person Dick was—a kind, vibrant, intelligent, caring and optimistic neighbor, colleague, friend and volunteer. Dick looked for the good in people; his belief in the power of people to bring about change and his activism and advocacy for a better world is his true legacy.

Dick is survived by his beloved wife Marian and his three daughters and sons-in-law: Jane Looney and Andy Looney of Fort Collins, Eve Hershcopf and Gregory Lewis of Hercules, CA, and Debra Hershcopf Kennedy and Harry

Kennedy of Boulder. He is also survived by his five grand-daughters and their families: Allison (Looney) Quijano and Chris Quijano and their son Maxwell of Gilbert, AZ, Rachel Kennedy and Caitlin Mc Shane of Boulder, Gabrielle Kennedy of San Francisco, Laura Lewis and Nina Lewis of Hercules, CA. In addition, Dick is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Dorothy and Harry Goodman of Lincoln, MA, his sister-in-law Lee Zall of San Gabriel, CA and many nieces, grandnieces, nephews, grandnephews and cousins.

A private family celebration of Dick's life will be held in the spring. If you would like to honor Dick's memory, please consider giving a contribution to the ACLU Foundation of Colorado (303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 350, Denver, CO 80203 w www.aclu-co.org), Pathways Hospice (7604 Carpenter Road, Ft. Collins, CO 80525 www.pathways-care.org) or a charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Donald Herschopf*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Whenever I think of Alfred Hitchcock's movies, I think of Mr. Herschopf. I was a recent college graduate from Northern Arizona University when I was hired by the CSU Libraries in Dec. 1970 as a loan desk assistant; I was quickly promoted twice and was a Library Technician and assistant to the Social Sciences Librarian as well as working the main reference desk. I believe that on some Sundays he also worked the Reference Desk with me. I remember Mr. Herschopf as a quiet friendly "higher up" supervisor. In about 1974 CSU had a Hitchcock film festival and I decided to go, so I hired a babysitter and went to the festival early one Saturday morning at a theater on I knew no one there so as I was looking for a good lone seat, Mr. Herschopf called out to me with a vigorous wave and we sat together that day and watched Hitchcock films together. Between shows we discussed the movies. He was an avid Hitchcock fan, and I was a novice who had developed a love for some of the old Hitchcock films I'd seen in black and white on TV as a girl and teen. Mr. Herschopf was a warm, friendly man and left a lasting impression on me as I learned that "higher ups" in the business world can be friendly and interesting human beings, not distant and dull bosses without a sense of humor, but with a depth of knowledge to share with a young film buff like me. I never saw him after I left my library job, but with each Hitchcock thriller I view, I wish he was there to share it with me.*

Nancy L. Turner, Rockport, Texas

Nancy Turner - October 14, 2016 at 09:22 PM

KG

“ I was fortunate to work with Dick at the CSU Libraries for several years. But my most distinct memories are of him and Marian at different social justice rallies throughout the years. They could always be counted on to be present when protesting any kind of social injustice. His presence in Fort Collins will be sorely missed.

Kathy Graybill - April 06, 2015 at 10:07 AM

GM

“ In 1977, as a CSU student, I had a summer job at the library working for Dick. He was a delightful, intelligent, kind man who treated a mere student with respect and courtesy. It was only a few months, but I'll never forget him. My condolences to the family.

Gale McGaha Miller - March 11, 2015 at 09:38 AM

LB

“ Dear Marian,

What a beautiful man Dick was! I have been thinking of both of you lately and your support of the public library when I was a children's librarian there. For a class last fall, I created a bibliography of books about children in poverty and came across many of the Jane Addams award-winning titles that you and Dick had faithfully donated to the public library children's collection for years, and years, and years! Studying how books like those make a positive difference in children's lives reminded me all over again how lucky we were to have the two of you supporting our library and the children of our community. Please accept my condolences and my gratitude.

Lu Benke

Lu Benke - March 04, 2015 at 10:34 AM

DR

“ To Mr. Herschcopf's family, my condolences. I read about Mr. Herschcopf's death with sadness - he was loving, fun, interesting, caring; a special person. His decency and goodness will be missed by the entire community. Marian; I am profoundly sorry for your loss. With love. David Roy

David Roy - March 04, 2015 at 08:39 AM

MA

“ We wish to say Thank You to your loved one for his service to our great country. Our sympathies are with your family.

*Marine Corps League Auxiliary #785
Fort Collins, CO*

Marine Corps League Auxiliary - March 03, 2015 at 04:18 PM

FE

“ Dear Marion,
Halcy and I were truly saddened upon hearing of Dick's recent passing. Fred was particularly chagrined , having recently talked with you in the overcrowded line at the old Fort Collins High School (where Fred taught in 1963.) We marvel at the interesting experiences that the two of you have had together, and we miss Dick's opening smile and fully open mind. Halcy remembers him fondly from her work with him at the library. Please stay in touch, it would be nice to see you sometime.
With fondest greetings, Halcy and Fred Enssle

Fred and Halcyon Enssle - March 03, 2015 at 01:39 PM

KH

“ *Hi Dick's Family,
I first met Dick and Marion when they were helping out a friend of theirs who was in assisted living. Then I would see Dick at demonstrations over the years I have been in Fort Collins. (We may have crossed paths also thru Rocky Flats issues). Most importantly I think of Dick as an incredible advocate for social justice who while advocating often had a smile and a twinkle in his eyes.. I am sorry for your loss and the loss for our community. May his determination and peace and love comfort us.*

Kirsten Hartman

Kirsten Hartman - March 02, 2015 at 11:21 AM

CB

“ *Marian and Family:
Nancy and I were saddened by the passing of Dick. I have good personal thoughts of Dick as he was always supportive of anyone interested in libraries. His support of Marian while she worked for the Colorado Division of Wildlife was wonderful. Don and Sheryl Radovich also commented to me at various times of their good remembrances of Dick (and Marian) while he was working at Western State in Gunnison.*

*All of our very best,
Clait and Nancy Braun.*

Clait E. Braun - March 02, 2015 at 12:01 AM

BM

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Barry McCann - March 01, 2015 at 08:03 AM

BM

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



Barry McCann - March 01, 2015 at 08:01 AM

BM

“ *To Marian and all of Dick's family, I am so sorry to learn of his passing. I first met Dick in 1981 when I started working at the CSU Library as a work-study student. We started running into each other at various political events around town and become friends. I loved his sharp mind, compassionate heart, and his willingness to always engage me in conversation and debate. I greatly admired and respected him--he was someone I always looked forward to seeing at the latest demonstration or forum. Wishing all of you peace as you remember and celebrate a life well-lived. Barry and Lisa McCann*

Barry McCann - March 01, 2015 at 07:57 AM

KT

“ *I will never forget Mr. Herschcopf's kindness to me when I worked at the CSU library. I am thankful for his friendship. My thoughts are with you, Marian.*

*Kacy Thompson
Lund, Sweden*

Kacy Thompson - March 01, 2015 at 05:52 AM

CM

“ *Chrissy McCollom lit a candle in memory of
Richard Donald Herschopf*



Chrissy McCollom - February 27, 2015 at 10:52 AM