



## Jerome Danburg

December 21, 1940 - August 10, 2021

More than anything else, the life of Jerome S Danburg was animated by insatiable curiosity. For more than eighty years Jerry engaged in a perpetual quest to learn more about the world around him and the friends and family who brought him so much happiness. His quest took him from the small red brick triplex on La Branch Street to the storied halls of learning at MIT and then to Berlin, Germany where he met the love of his life, Gudrun Scholz. Years later, Jerry returned to Houston where he and his new family flourished for so many full and happy years. On August 10, 2021, Jerry's quest finally drew to an end, at his home in Bellaire, in the embrace of his beloved Gudrun. From a family of Central and Eastern European immigrants, Jerome was the third of seven children. Academically gifted, he resolved at a young age to excel in everything he did. An early interest in the natural world developed into a passion for scientific discovery. This would become Jerry's religion. When the young Jerry decided to leave Houston for a coveted place at MIT, his mother was perplexed but supportive. 'I remember her looking at me with pride but also surprise' he recalled. 'She was probably thinking "what is he doing?"' The answer was not long in coming. Jerry arrived at MIT feeling, in his words, 'like the king of the world'. Fiercely competitive, he excelled in everything MIT had to offer and before long was looking for new worlds to conquer. Over the summer of 1961 he visited Europe seeking adventure but found so much more. His chance encounter with a young West Berliner named Gudrun transformed his life. As Jerry put it, 'meeting Gudrun put a

crack in my motivation for studying physics, a crack as wide as the Grand Canyon'. Jerry had fallen in love. Jerry now began to steer by a new lodestar. In 1965, he and Gudrun were married. Four years later, Aron was born, followed by Andrea, Sylvia and Sonja. Jerry took the greatest of pleasure in his expanding family, especially his eight grandchildren. The youngest would sit rapt as Jerry, an accomplished story teller, would spin ever more outrageous tales. For others, Jerry was a fount of wisdom, patiently explaining complex phenomena in the simplest of terms. Above all, Jerry gloried in all their achievements. He wore a grandfather's pride on his sleeve, the icing on the cake for a life well-lived and a man well-loved. As Jerry, himself, put it in his final months, 'but I really have had the best life possible'. As the mathematician inside of him might have said ... Q.E.D.

# Tribute Wall

CV

“ Jerry has been a core member of an outstanding cadre of physicists working at Bellaire Research Center. It has been a privilege for me to have the opportunity to be his colleague and life time friend. Jerry was an outstanding scientist - he really knew his physics! At BRC, we would have regular weekly seminars. Jerry's questions and comments were always gentle but very insightful and we would learn a lot from him. I had many occasions to work with Jerry during my years at Shell, first as a member of his project team and later on as a colleague. He was an excellent manager, always listened well and always put people first - paying lots of attention to the welfare of the staff within his Department. I have been in many management meetings with Jerry. We could invariably rely on Jerry's invaluable judgement - always balanced and thoughtful. With his gentle humor, he would put people at ease and diffuse the tensions in the room. My wife Hue and I have many good memories of the dinner parties with Gudrun and Jerry, often at their home during my earlier years at Bellaire. Gudrun and Jerry were gracious hosts and they were great company. Jerry's passing is indeed a deep loss to his former colleagues in Bellaire Research community. Hue and I would like to express our sincere condolence to Gudrun and family.  
Cung Vu

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**Cung Vu** - August 18, 2021 at 06:01 PM

SB

“ It was always a great pleasure to work with Jerry Danburg as a colleague at Shell. One learned much from him. Though I have not been in touch with him much since retirement, I did think of him off and on. My wife Prabha and I express our heartfelt condolences to Goodrun and the rest of the family. From Sesh Bala.

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**Sesh Bala** - August 13, 2021 at 05:23 PM

DT

“ Years ago Jerry Danburg was my supervisor in the computer science department at Shell. He was smart (as you'd expect of any Ph.D. physicist), respectful of people's opinions, even-tempered, always good-humored, caring, kind, and a pleasure to be around. Jerry was, in short, one of the nicest people I have ever known, and I feel fortunate to have been associated with him. He will be missed by all who knew him.  
--Dave Tolle

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**Dave Tolle** - August 13, 2021 at 04:35 PM

AT

“ I worked closely with Jerry in downtown Houston when Jerry had an assignment in Shell's operating divisions. He and I got very close and spent time with each other every day. I remember his wit and intelligence but also his compassion and interest in people. He was a great guy, a devoted husband and family man, and I am very sorry to hear of his untimely passing. My sincere condolences to Gudrun and family. From Anne Tyler

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**Anne Tyler** - August 13, 2021 at 12:06 AM