



Melvin G. Rothenberg

April 6, 1934 - August 1, 2023

Prof. Melvin Gordon Rothenberg, PhD, 89, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago Department of Mathematics, of Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood, pioneering mathematician Marxist scholar and activist, passed away peacefully on August 1, 2023, in Kingston, NY.

Beloved husband of over 70 years to the late Marcia June Rothenberg (nee Cherko). Father of Julia Helise Rothenberg, Aaron Rothenberg, and Louise Michelle Rothenberg. Adored grandfather of Theo Rothenberg Berliner. Son of the late Harry Rothenberg and Leah Gordon Rothenberg and respected comrade of many.

Born in Boston, MA, Mel was raised in Cleveland, where he met Marcia Cherko working on their high school newspaper. Mel studied philosophy and mathematics at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and was recruited by the University of California, Berkeley for his Masters and Doctorate degrees. He was a pioneer in algebraic and geometric topology.

Two of his most famous contributions are the Rothenberg-Steenrod spectral sequence and the odd order group theorem in the subject of nonlinear similarity. He introduced key ideas in the study of symmetry. Over the years, Professor Rothenberg mentored many students and young faculty at the University of Chicago's mathematics department impacting the human side of

mathematics as well as its austere subject matter.

Mel and Marcia were tireless activists throughout their lives and participated in the most important social movements of their time, including the Civil Rights movement, the anti-war movement, women's liberation the fight for single-payer in care in the United-States.

Graveside service Tuesday, August 8, 11am, Forest Home Cemetery.

Another celebration of Mel's life is being planned. Check back to this website for information as it becomes available.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to <https://www.ilsinglepayer.org/>. Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Forest Home Cemetery
863 Des Plaines Avenue
Forest Park, IL 60130

Family and friends to meet at cemetery gates by 10:45am

Tribute Wall



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Melvin G. Rothenberg.* ”



August 07, 2023 at 08:09 PM