

Remembrances

Stanley Mayerson



Stanley Mayerson, PhD, MD-R, MFCC, died at his home in Palo Alto, California of natural causes.

Stanley was uniquely creative and always, as he was fond of saying, was an N of one. Born in 1933 in New York, he graduated with a BS

in Engineering despite suffering all his life from what we today identify as ADHD. He then attended business school at New York University, where he was a student of (and became a life-long advocate for) the management concepts of W. Edwards Deming, who revolutionized Japan's industry after WWII.

Part of his intestines had to be removed by surgery because of shrapnel received during the Korean War, in which he served as a medical corpsman. He came to California as a Senior Systems Engineer at the Philco-Ford Satellite Communications Division in Palo Alto, Ca, to engage in rocket science, particularly concerning the impact of space flights on humans. To study and understand the psychological impacts on the astronauts, he was sent down the road to Stanford University, but he never came back.

Instead, he became Clinical Director on the NIMH Center for the Study of Schizophrenia, a double-blind study and follow-up of selective use of phenothiazines at Agnes State Hospital (published by Silverman-Rappaport). He received his MA in Educational Psychology from Stanford and his PhD at the Institute for Group and Family Studies.

He founded Soteria, regarded as one of the first efforts to address mental illness in a non-locked-ward residential-like setting. Appointed Contra Costa County's Assistant Mental Health Director, he designed and ran its non-traditional family-based mental health program (called I-Ward) for serious mental disorders. When a major mental health bill was being crafted at the federal level, he succeeded in shaping the legislation toward family therapy.

He was recruited to set up the mental health program for the Hoopa Indian Tribe in Humboldt County, and moved there to run it. But, in a tragic car accident, he was injured and required many years to recover.

He also established and maintained a private practice in the East Bay as an MFCC (Marriage Family and Children Counselor). Despite poor health, he devoted himself to charitable activities, including the provision of mental health services to the working poor and the homeless, and supporting education for girls in Afghanistan, through a charitable foundation which was established to further his pro bono work. In later life he returned to his Orthodox Jewish upbringing, and enjoyed minion at congregations in San Francisco and Palo Alto.

He relocated to Israel and took dual citizenship there, where he also received a degree of MD-R (Medical Doctor-Researcher). Upon his return to the US and in his later years, he was delighted to consider himself a miracle of modern medical care, at Stanford and Kaiser, which managed to keep him alive despite the gradual failure of hips, knees, heart and other parts. His last passionate efforts were to teach ways for mankind to avoid war.

Dr. Mayerson was charming and charismatic, a great raconteur. He married and divorced four times, including for a short period to Attorney and Former Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Carol Ruth Silver. He also established other loving relationships, the last of which was with Louise Lacey of Kensington, Ca. He had no children of his own but was very proud of his participation in the raising of his two stepdaughters by his second wife.

A graveside traditional memorial service will be held at Eternal Home Cemetery, 1051 El Camino Real, Colma, Ca 94014, sponsored by Sinai Memorial Chapel, 650-369-3636, with Rabbi Yosef Levin, on Wednesday, 23 February 2011, at 2:00 PM. In lieu of flowers, please consider sending contributions in Stanley's memory to Sinai Memorial Chapel for their Burial Fund.

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