



Harry Rosenberg

March 22, 1923 - September 9, 2010

Harry Rosenberg died in Poudre Valley Hospital on September 9, 2010, after a determined struggle against prolonged illness. Surviving family members include: his wife Nancy Hart; children Stephen Rosenberg wife Toni deceased in 2009 ; Susan Nord husband Michael; Stanley Rosenberg wife Joy and grandchildren Jennifer Lee husband Marshall, Sara Dooley husband Brian John Nord wife Brooke and Adeline and Ethan Rosenberg; great grandchildren Daniel Dooley and Ava Lee. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Adeline Steinberg Rosenberg. Harry also left a plethora of friends-Colorado State University colleagues and students and countless others outside the CSU community-many of whom he influenced in lastingly positive ways. Harry was born on March 22, 1923, in Toledo, Ohio, adopted by William and Rose Rosenberg. Both were Jewish immigrants from Russia and Lithuania, respectively. William Rosenberg was a resourceful and ambitious businessman, whose enterprises included tailoring, plus a general store and apartment house ownership. In 1928 he moved his family moved to Utah, settling first in Salt Lake City and subsequently in Vernal, a predominately Mormon community where few Jews resided. As an only child, Harry's parents provided him with encouragement and security. Although neither was formally educated, they saw education for their son as a key to achieving success in America. His mother took particular pride in a certificate Harry was awarded in fourth grade by the Uintah County superintendent of schools for reading the most books and writing the best reviews of any student in the district. His life

as a bibliophile and scholar was launched. Also notable was the start of a lifelong passion for spectator sports. With great pride he often cited his tenure as batboy for the Vernal Merchants baseball team as the start of this pleasurable diversion. In 1938 William Rosenberg decided to sell his Utah properties and move to Los Angeles. There, Harry attended junior and senior high school, and met Adeline Steinberg. Two years passed before he asked her for a date, but the effect was life changing. Not only did they continue to date, but Adeline, a gifted singer and classical music devotee took Harry to his first symphony concert. Their shared love of good music contributed incalculably to their relationship. Also notable was Adeline's interest in the First Hebrew Presbyterian Church of Los Angeles-an evangelical Protestant congregation that caused them both to break from their traditional Jewish heritage. This conversion to Christianity would profoundly affect Harry spiritually and professionally. By this time the United States had entered World War II and Harry, despite the loss of an eye in a childhood automobile accident, received a special waiver to enlist in the Army Air Corps 1942-46. This led to clerical service with 306th Bomb Group in England. An important concomitant of military duty in Great Britain was exposure to local historic sites and culture. For example, a visit to York Minster, the largest Gothic cathedral in Northern Europe, aroused a compelling curiosity about ancient and medieval history. And this interest was reinforced by a trip to a Cambridge book store, at which he bought a 1825 edition of Edward Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire for five pounds-a purchase that Harry described as "vital in terms of my future." Following his discharge, in 1947 Harry married Adeline Steinberg and used his Bill support to study medieval history and literature at the University of California, Berkeley. Before earning his Ph.D., he taught briefly at Stanford University and the University of Washington, and in 1959 accepted a faculty position to teach history at Colorado State University. His career at CSU would span nearly half a century and feature some remarkable contributions to the school and the Fort Collins community. From 1965-1975 he served as the first chairman of a new

Department of History, building it from a faculty of 12 to 21 members and making it a solid contributor to liberal arts education at CSU. In 1962 he began more than four decades of service to the Faculty Council that included two terms as chairman. In 1979 Harry's love of books found expression his involvement with CSU Library Associates, which he served as President. In 1984 he became coordinator of the American West Program, a distinguished summer lecture series that enhanced the intellectual vitality of the university and surrounding community. Also notable was the service Harry and Adeline rendered to the Fort Collins Symphony. Adeline played a key role in promotional and fundraising efforts of the Women's Guild, and Harry contributed significantly as a member and president of the symphony's governing board. After Adeline's death in 1983, an Adeline Rosenberg Prize was established to encourage an annual Young Artist competition. The leadership provided by the Rosenbergs helped to shape the Fort Collins Symphony into an invaluable community cultural resource. In midst of these achievements, Harry was a serious scholar, well read and intellectually curious. His books and articles on various aspects of church history were assiduously researched and gracefully written, and scores of reviews in academic journals reflected a solid grasp of the literature in his field. Above all, Harry was a remarkable mentor to countless students who took his classes and benefited from his guidance, as well as junior colleagues whom he diligently helped to advance professionally. Gracious, good-humored and smart-consistently competent in nearly every task he undertook-Harry Rosenberg's legacy warrants special recognition, and there were awards that reflected an appreciation for his manifold achievements. These included: the Panhellenic Council Distinguished Faculty Member of the Year 1962, the Student Honors Council "Honors Prof designation 1976, the CSU Alumni Association Charles A. Lory Public Service Award 1991, the Fort Collins Historical Society Distinguished Service Award 1997, the CSU Alumni Associates Distinguished Professor Award 1998, and the CSU College of

Liberal Arts John N. Stern Distinguished Service Award 1998. Surpassing these formal accolades, however, were personal relationships that Harry forged. He was a devoted father, grandfather and great grandfather who cherished time with his family. Also, few people attracted more lasting friendships. Those who knew Harry Rosenberg will always miss him. A memorial service for Harry will be held 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at the First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Avenue, Fort Collins. There will be a private family internment at Grandview Cemetery. Donations in Harry's name may be given to the CSU History department's Harry Rosenberg Scholarship Fund, c/o the CSU Foundation, 410 University Services Center, Fort Collins, CO 80521-9100 or the Adeline and Harry Rosenberg Endowment Fort Collins Symphony 4745 Wheaton Drive, Suite 100, Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Tribute Wall

JZ

“ Like many others, I'm late in honoring this incredible man. I was an undergraduate at CSU from 1976-1980 and I took many classes from Dr. Rosenberg. I've completed many graduate programs since, but I've found the lessons he taught are foundational everywhere I studied. More importantly I remember his grace, kindness, and love of the subject that he passed onto to me and others. I also remember the unique way he pronounced Suetonius... I never read anything about Roman history or the Early Church Fathers without thankfully remembering him.

Jeff Zust - August 09, 2023 at 10:41 AM

JH

“ I was reminiscing about Harry and looked up this obit to check some details of his life. After reading it, I sent the link to son Eric, who has a PhD from Brandeis in Ancient Middle East and Bible, and just completed a post-doc at Stanford. Eric remembers Harry, but didn't know of the Stanford connection. And one other connection - Eric has also been to Vernal, though we never lived there. We still tell stories about Harry among family and friends, and they are all good.

John M Harvey - December 27, 2022 at 03:51 PM

KW

“ I know I am ten years late but I don't live in Colorado anymore and just found out about dear Dr. Rosenberg's passing. I met him as a graduate student and was rightly in awe (or should I say terrified) of him. Until, I was in need of his grace. I was in an auto accident and told I had to be in Poudre Valley Hospital for surgery. I told the doc I couldn't! I had a final with Dr. Rosenberg and couldn't miss it. But I called him from the hospital and thinking he might not believe that I was suddenly in the hospital during finals week. His words I will never forget. "You poor little sweetheart" he said. That is when I learned he not only believed in his faith, he practiced his faith. I'm sure he is resting with the angels and I will never forget his grace.

Karen Waddell Waters - June 18, 2020 at 11:25 PM

WL

“ Steve, Susan, Stanley---my parents loved your parents life-changing for my folks and introduced me to both of them. Which also had the same impact on me. I and other young friends consequently met the One. Later, when I went to CSU in my mid-30's, I would seek Harry's counsel where to begin my research to answer personal questions that I had. What a gem! Nancy, thinking of your loss, and may you be greatly comforted. God's blessings on your family. With love, Wendy Lopez

Wendy and Bill Lopez - September 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ Please accept my condolences on Harry's passing away. I first met Harry when I came to CSU in 1966. He was always a thoughtful person with sensible advice for anyone who sought out his opinions. I valued being his colleague. In a deep way, he never left his roots. He was always a mensch. Sincerely, Robert B Kelman

Robert Kelman - September 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ Dear Harry, you were very kind and supportive of me and my work when I first attended RMMRA conferences. My condolences, and warm wishes to your family.

Andrea Knox - September 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Dear Rosenberg family, Harry was an amazing person. I had only an inkling of his accomplishments in the short time I knew him. What a tremendous gift to have known him. God bless you in your loss. Sincerely, Sally Harper

Sally and Stuart Harper - September 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

Carolyn and Jane Goodwin - September 15, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ It will be hard to imagine CSU without the presence of Harry Rosenberg. He left a legacy for excellent teaching and concern about quality and the welfare of students and faculty. He was an anchor in Faculty Council and worked to achieve the appropriate role of faculty governance in the operation of the University. He participated in the making of CSU a comprehensive University through his persistent vision and leadership. We also appreciate his work to support the symphony and stimulate interest in the general public about the history of Fort Collins and the west. Harry will be missed and we send our condolences to all the members of the Rosenberg family.

Jud and Pat Harper - September 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ I remember Dr. Rosenberg from my days at CSU, but more from the Lincoln Center, where I have been the box office coordinator for over 30 years, and where he was such a firm supporter of the Fort Collins Symphony, and attended every single concert for as long as his health allowed. His contributions to the community through both the university and the symphony are extraordinary, and he will certainly be fondly remembered by all who knew him. My condolences to his wife Nancy, and to all the other family members also.

Debbie Dixon - September 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ My deep sympathy to all the Rosenberg family. Our friendship dates back to the days when my husband was very involved with the FCSO. Harry was such a gracious and warm human being. He will be missed.

Virginia Febinger - September 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ My condolences on the loss of Harry. His contributions to Colorado State University and particularly to its academic faculty have had, and will continue to have, a huge positive impact. It was my pleasure to work with him on Faculty Council for many years, and I always will remember him fondly.

Sue Pendell - September 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ To Nancy and family, My thought and prayers are with you at this sad time.

Carol Fulkrod - September 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Harry was a dear friend and mentor to both my wife and I for many years. We are grateful for how the Lord used him in our lives, and the contributions he made to thousands of others as well. Our prayers are with the family.

Darrell Schoenig - September 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ We share your loss and sorry. I was privileged to work with Harry for a number of years on the American West program. I knew him to be a real gentleman and friend, considerate, courteous, caring and capable. He left a legacy of valued service to the community and to the University that will be remembered.

Burnie & Edie Held - September 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ Our sincere condolences as Harry was a great friend and associate with the symphony and CSU.

Jim and Kim Durand - September 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Harry was a wonderful person and friend to all who knew him. It was at Harry's invitation that I gave my first professional paper; at his invitation, we taught a course together, and together we organized a conference for the Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, an institution Harry helped found and just one of the many institutions Harry nurtured in his academic and community life. Pat and I were privileged to be among the many whose lives he touched. Charles and Pat Smith

Charles Smith - September 12, 2010 at 12:00 AM