



Andrew Lenard

July 18, 1927 - March 17, 2020

Andrew Lenard (92) of Bloomington, Indiana, passed away in the room he shared with his wife, E. Veronica Lenard, at Autumn Hills Alzheimer's Special Care Center in Bloomington, on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Andrew was born in Balmazujvaros, Hungary, on July 18, 1927, to Piroska (Priscilla) and Lorinc (Lawrence) Lenard. Andrew's earliest years were spent on the nearby large agricultural estate managed by his father.

Andrew's early education included German and English in addition to Hungarian, later adding French and Latin, leading to a lifelong love for languages and enjoyment of reading and translating. He had a keen intellectual curiosity, and a wide range of reading interest, all nonfiction. It was his desire that his extensive book collection could be made available to others as a memorial to him. His early years also laid the foundation for him to become a highly skilled pianist, a talent he used throughout his life for his own enjoyment and that of others.

Until March 1944, World War II was only a distant reality for Andrew. Then Hungary was overrun by Nazi Germany and the persecution of Jews began. His family was taken from their home to a temporary Jewish ghetto, and then to a hastily erected concentration camp in a brickyard. At the end of June 1944, Andrew's life was saved when the cattle car into which he and his mother, sister, and brother had been loaded -- destined for Auschwitz--was mistakenly sent instead to a camp in Strasshof, Austria, near Vienna, where they survived by performing slave labor, his mother managing the camp

kitchen. Following liberation by Russian troops on April 10, 1945, they traveled to Budapest, where they happily found that all but one of their immediate relatives had survived.

On July 1, 1947, Andrew came to the U.S. While his parents worked to establish an egg farm in northern Indiana, Andrew attended the University of Iowa, receiving his B.A. in 1949, and a Ph.D. in theoretical physics in 1953. Meanwhile, he became a naturalized citizen. Drafted in 1953, he served in the Army Engineers, including aerial mapping work in Alaska. On the 70th anniversary of his arrival to America, he bought an ad in the Bloomington Herald Times commemorating the day, telling a reporter he did so because “I have a deep feeling of thankfulness, I always have, for being in America for my life.”

Andrew and Veronica were married in Toronto, where she lived, in 1953, and they began life in Berkeley, California, followed shortly by New York City, where Andrew did research with the Columbia University physics department. In 1957, they moved to Princeton New Jersey, where Andrew was a staff member of the Matterhorn Project, sponsored by the Atomic Energy Commission and Princeton University.

During academic year 1965-66, Andrew worked with Freeman Dyson at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, resulting in an important paper on the stability of matter that stimulated a considerable amount of follow up work by other mathematicians and physicists. It was at this point in Andrew's career that Indiana University offered him a joint appointment in mathematics and physics, which he took, remaining in Bloomington thereafter. At IU, Andrew taught mostly undergraduate mathematics, with some advanced courses in physics, continuing to publish more articles on various aspects of mathematics and mathematical physics.

A 2005 article entitled, “Andrew Lenard: A Mystery Unraveled,” told the story of “the use of the name Lenard in many concepts that form the backbone of bi-Hamiltonian (multi-Hamiltonian) theory,” which became “one of the most active areas of research in the field of mathematical physics.” The mystery

was that no seminal paper by Andrew exists, which occurred because he did the work on the spot, quickly, in response to a colleague's coffee room inquiry, and did not consider it publication worthy. Nonetheless, it was a major contribution.

Andrew retired from teaching in 1993. Thereafter, he stayed busy with piano playing, exchanging email with family and friends, family genealogy, and organizing a vast collection of family photos and documents. Though always speaking English with a heavy Hungarian accent, Andrew was a constant and highly skilled reader and writer in the language, as seen in this, his Final Message:

I prayerfully ask my posterity to remember me, to respect my virtues and forgive my faults, and to recognize the fervent hope that they will live their lives in a forward-looking and positive spirit using good judgment in husbanding the fruits of diligence and good fortune, but bearing reverses with equanimity, with the guidance of Love and Honor.

He lived out these words, as evidenced by his willingness to take over grocery shopping and cooking when her Alzheimer's made it difficult for Veronica to continue her life-long role. He enjoyed and took pride in this new role in their lives.

Andrew is survived by his wife of 66years, Veronica, by two children, Dorothy Lenard of Bloomington, and George Lenard of St. Louis, three grandchildren, Emily, James, and Michael Lenard, and a great-granddaughter, Lily Stark, all of St. Louis.

A celebration of life service for Veronica and Andrew will be held 1:00pm on Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Allen Funeral Home 4155 S. Old St Rd 37 Bloomington. Visitation will be held from 11:00 m to service time on Saturday, October 14, 2023 also at the funeral home. A burial was held at White Oak Cemetery..

Memorial donations may be made in Andrew's name to the International Rescue Committee at www.help.rescue.org.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos, and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

Cemetery Details

White Oak Cemetery

Bloomington, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **14**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Celebration of Life Service

OCT **14**. 1:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

CV

“ I was at IU grad program at Indiana University 1983-85 and my wife Dianne and I knew Andrew and his wife, Veronica. What a wonderful pair of people! I have a book by Einstein that he gave me when I left, inscribed with thanks for lectures on the subject of that book. He had a wonderful sense of humor, and sat in on my lectures in the front row, always ready to stop the proceedings with a question that usually evolved considerably while he was asking it! I didn't keep in good touch, but did communicate with him a few years ago and he remembered me, and we exchanged a couple emails. I enjoyed reading about his life. What a wonderful person!
Chris Vuille, Ph.D.

Chris Vuille - October 20, 2023 at 02:06 PM

ML

“ From a walk around Lake Monroe with my mom and Uncle Andrew and Aunt Veronica in 2013. A good memory.
Mary Lenard



Mary Lenard - October 14, 2023 at 10:18 AM

KP

“ I remember Andrew (at that time, Professor Lenard to me) finding me one day; I forget where, some small lounge, perhaps some small social event. I think he overheard me speculating on the small number of ideas in mathematics, relatively speaking. He produced a copy of a short and at the time recent article by Halmos: <https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Articles/Elements-Halmos.pdf> called *Does Mathematics have elements?* I was struck by the fact that he had taken my vague speculation seriously. His *History of Mathematics* course was also fantastic. I will miss him. In sympathy,
Kevin Pilgrim, IUB Math class of '85.

Kevin Pilgrim - September 25, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Allen Funeral Home and Crematory - September 16, 2023 at 12:11 PM

LW

“ Andrew and I corresponded for many years starting in 2007 as he helped translate emails between me and relatives in Romania assumed to have perished during the Holocaust. He would send me the English translation of cousin Lajos' emails and translate mine into Hungarian for Lajos. It also turned out that our two families may have been connected through a marriage between one of his forebears and one of mine. There was a hiatus in our emails from 2017 up until February 2020, when I emailed to see how he was, and never got a response. I then discovered he died only a month later. One thing stands out in my memory- what he told me would be inscribed on his tombstone despite having converted away from Judaism for "practical reasons" although in his heart he would always remain Jewish. I will never forget the words, and wonder whether they do appear engraved in his memory-ANCESTRY:
PEOPLE OF THE BOOK
BIRTH: PLAINS OF HUNGARY
LIFE: ADOPTED BY AMERICA

Leslie Dann Weinberg New York

Leslie Weinberg - December 29, 2020 at 08:50 AM

RJ

“ *Dr. Andrew Lenard was my dissertation advisor when Dr. Sherman passed away. I finished under Dr. Lenard in 1979.*

I have many fond memories of him. Once I left my umbrella in his office. When I returned the next week to see him, he handed it to me. I put it down and we talked about stable potentials. Afterwards, I left his office and got halfway down the hallway when I found he was running towards me with my umbrella.

I will miss him.

Ronald Johns

Ronald Alan Johns - April 27, 2020 at 12:09 PM

AD

“ *Dr. Lenard was my professor at Indiana University in the 1990s. He was one of the best professors I have had, and I was thinking about him today. I decided to do an internet search to see how he was doing and found out he passed less than two weeks ago. He is unforgettable as a human being and a professor. It was an honor to have known him and been his student.*

Ana Dias

Ana Lúcia Braz Dias - March 30, 2020 at 10:48 PM

LK

“ Dear Lenard family,

I am a neighbor of Andrew and Veronica, and I enjoyed them. We would see them out walking and at neighborhood TGIF gatherings. Andrew got on a kid swing set at one of the gatherings and smilingly enjoyed it--not that long ago, perhaps 4 or 5 years ago. Someone got a delightful picture of him. When I find that he was in his upper 80s at that time, my hat is off to him.

I am so glad to have had a chance to know him. He will be missed.

Laura Kao

Laura Kao - March 25, 2020 at 09:56 PM

JM

“ Dear George,

*I'm so sorry for your loss. What a remarkable person and life!
My heartfelt condolences to you and your family.*

Joanna Mendoza

joanna mendoza - March 25, 2020 at 06:34 AM

DH

“ *My sincere condolences to Andrew's family.*

What an interesting person! We had so many conversations and interactions over so many years about physics, math, music, piano performance, language....

I'll always remember his kindness and generosity as well as his erudition, love of books, and enthusiasm for sharing. I life well-lived.

*David Hoff
(Emeritus Professor of Mathematics)*

David Hoff - March 24, 2020 at 03:14 PM

GW

“ Dear Family of Andrew Lenard,

I join your friends in expressing sincere sympathy on the loss of your family member Andrew Lenard. Dorothy and I have volunteered together many times at the Bloomington Global Gifts store, and I know how much she respected and loved her family members and particularly her parents. In reading his obituary, it was clear that Mr. Lenard was a remarkable person who overcame adversity early in his life and always looked to the future to achieve great personal and professional success. His Final Message was a beautiful expression of his philosophy of life. Please know that my thoughts are with you as you grieve this loss.

*Sincerely,
Gail Weaver*

Gail Weaver - March 24, 2020 at 10:58 AM

MT

“ Dear George and Dorothy.

We were saddened by the passing of Andrew. We have been friends of the "Lenards "since our arrival in Bloomington in 1967. Mimi , Andrew and Veronica had a lot in common having survived the holocaust and coming from the same part of the world. I (Milton) enjoyed my friendship with both your parents. Veronica and I in later years took the same class at the YMCA and I always looked forward to meeting her. I realized the last time we visited your parents, about a year ago that someting was wrong, since Veronica did not know who we were.

They were dear friends, I will always remember our years together as friends, the many meals I had at their house, Andrews playing the piano, and discussions of politics. They will be missed.

Milton and Mimi Taylor

Milton Taylor - March 23, 2020 at 08:12 PM

MM

“ David and I send our condolences, thoughts and prayers to the entire Lenard family, and particularly to Dorothy, at this difficult time. Professor Lenard was a remarkable man who came out of the frightening chaos of a concentration camp to build a meaningful life for himself and his family. Much love, Martha & David Moore

Moore Martha - March 23, 2020 at 09:52 AM