



Peter Schwandt

April 7, 1939 - August 31, 2024

Peter Schwandt passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 31st at the IU Health Hospice House. Peter was born in 1939 in Göttingen, Germany to Anni Schwandt.

In 1956 Peter and his mother immigrated to the U.S. and settled in Bloomington, IN. Soon after, he enrolled as a freshman at Indiana University to study physics. Peter earned a PhD in Physics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1967 before returning to Bloomington as a research physicist and IU faculty member, where he was instrumental in establishing the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility. Subsequently he traveled broadly around the world to help others establish similar experimental facilities. He retired as a Professor Emeritus of Physics from Indiana University in 2002.

Peter's hobbies included collecting DVDs, watercolor painting, and calligraphy. He was a long-time member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, Indiana. In retirement, he continued to travel for pleasure, with some of his favorite locations being Vancouver, BC, Alaska, Spain, and New Zealand.

Survivors include his wife, Dixie Welch, and immediate family: Janeth Murray Welch, Michael Schwandt (Eleonore Maudry), Melanie Schwandt, Von Welch (Ruth Aydt), Kent Welch (Evelina Dineva), Kalina Welch and Zora Welch.

A celebration of life will be held at 2pm on December 21st at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.

Donations may be made in Peter's honor to Beacon Inc..

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC **21**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Unitarian Universalist Church
2120 N. Fee Ln
Bloomington,, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

BM

“ When I came back to Bloomington, Peter is the one that re-hired me at the Cyclotron, to work on the Duoplasmatron ion source in High-Voltage Terminal B. He was an expert draftsman and designed various beamline devices (e.g. electrostatic quadrupole) and source extraction and focusing hardware. He was a great teacher, and very patient as I learned the ropes, and did not seem to have a mean bone in his body. I fondly remember those times, and later interactions; I will miss him.

Bill Manwaring - December 26, 2024 at 04:34 PM

DW

Thank you. He was very patient with people (if it was a piece of apparatus that wasn't up to his standard it was in danger of being ripped out! (That happened at our home once and the bit went flying out of the furnace room!)

Dixie Welch - May 08, 2025 at 09:33 AM

DW

It has been almost a year since I lost Peter. I do still miss him so much.

Dixie Welch - July 08, 2025 at 10:38 AM

SV

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Peter left the nuclear physics group at the University of Wisconsin just about the time I arrived in 1967. But he left behind a legacy and an adjective. His equipment designs and drawings were legendary for their precision and elegance. For a generation after he completed his Ph.D. any beautiful design was characterized as very "Schwandt;" it was a standard we were all expected to live up to.

I followed Peter to Indiana University in 1976 and we were colleagues for decades at the Cyclotron Facility. Peter will be missed. Unfortunately, I will be out of town and will have to miss his memorial service at the UU Church. But my thoughts will be with you.

Steve Vigdor

Steven E. Vigdor - December 12, 2024 at 04:42 PM