



Eugene Davidson

MAY 27, 1930 - MAY 16, 2023



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Eugene Davidson

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Just a few days shy of what would have been his 93rd birthday, our beloved Eugene Davidson lost his valiant 4-year battle with cancer. He left us with warm memories of a devoted husband, father, brother, cousin, and deep friendships. He now rests without further pain or suffering, Gene was born to Russian-Jewish emigres who came to the USA for a better and safer life. His parents divorced when he was only five years old, so he spent weekdays in the Bronx with his maternal relatives - his mother, his grandparents, and his deeply beloved uncle Sol (Solomon Deutsch), and his weekends with his paternal family - his father Jack and all the aunts and uncles and cousins who lived nearby. His mother took him to acting school (the Juvenile Theater of Art), and by the time Gene was 9, he had appeared as “Gene Douglas” on the Broadway stage (as one of many child actors in the cast of “The American Way”), in a short film (“People Like Us,” filmed in New York starring Henry Armetta), and on radio several times on a popular children’s program called “Let’s Pretend.” At age 9, he spent a year in the fifth grade of a New York City public school, and at age 10 began high school at the Bronx High School of Science. He graduated from UCLA as a chemistry major, and received his Ph.D, in Biochemistry at Columbia University. His first academic position was in the Biochemistry Dept. at Duke University, where he rose to full Professorship, and was subsequently recruited to serve as the founding chair of Biochemistry at the Pennsylvania State Medical School at Hershey, PA. 20 years later, he was recruited as Chair of Biochemistry at Georgetown University School of Medicine, serving until retiring as Professor Emeritus 20 years later in 2008. His published papers included work on carbohydrate chemistry, glycobiology, vaccines, molecular analytics, and malaria, His serious hobbies were Bridge, travel, and fine food and wine. Most of his trips abroad included at least one meal at world-recognized restaurant. He leaves behind his wife of 33 years, Eve Ida Barak, and his four children, four grandchildren, and two great-



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grandchildren from his first marriage to the late Alice Howell Davidson: Mark (Joanna), Jackie & Micheal Fenton (James and Eleanor) and Matthew; Robin (Dominic Guiab), Hannah & Dominic II); Steven (Mary); and Ellen (Tarak Kauff), as well as his brother Howard (Laura Majerus) and nephew Corwin. Eugene will be laid to rest at Riverside Cemetery in Saddle Brook, NJ on Sunday, May 21st, 2023.




Events

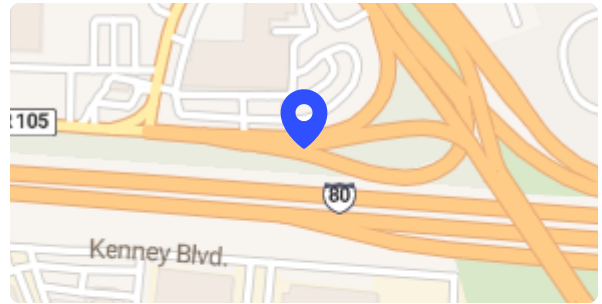
Eugene Davidson

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Graveside Service

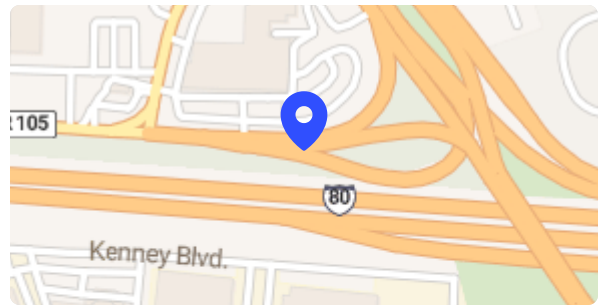
 **Sunday, May 21, 2023**

 **Riverside Cemetery**
Saddle Brook NJ



Cemetery Details

 **Riverside Cemetery**
Saddle Brook NJ





Tribute Wall

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EB

Eve Ida Barak posted:

I will always remember his incredible ability to forgive. We humans are frequently attacked by our memories, often bringing us great pain. Gene, too, had many such difficult-to-bear memories, but he always found ways to accept them as the price for merely being alive, and to forgive those whose words and actions were hurtful (sometimes horrifically hurtful) , merely by remembering the good in them, and he always found ways to remember and cherish that goodness, no matter how small or how long. May his memory forever be for goodness, for all of us. (Signed) Eve Ida Barak.

January 31 at 7:30 PM

EB

Eve Ida Barak posted:

The greatest memory I have of my beloved Eugene Davidson was the enormous grin on his face on our wedding day. That incredible grin told me everything a bride could ever want to know. I still miss him, even after all these years, and I always will. I pray that I will always remember his love, his kindness, his ability to forgive, and his intellect, and to always continue to learn from his beautiful, loving soul. Eve Ida Barak.

January 31 at 7:10 PM

EB

Eve Ida Barak posted:

The greatest memory I have of my beloved Gene Davidson was the grin on his face at our wedding. It told me everything a bride could possibly want to know. I miss him, and I always will.

January 31 at 6:59 PM

EB

Eve Ida Barak posted:

The most incredible trait of Eugene Davidson, beyond his intellectual brilliance, was his ability to love and to forgive. May he rest in peace, and may we all learn from this beautiful, unforgettable man. Eve Ida Barak.

January 31 at 6:45 PM

EB

Eve Ida Barak posted:

The most incredible trait of my beloved Eugene Davidson, in addition to his intellectual brilliance, was his uncanny ability to be kind, to love, and to forgive. May we all learn from him and from his life, and may he rest in peace. Eve Ida Barak.

January 31 at 6:37 PM



Tribute Wall

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EB

Eve Ida Barak posted:

His incredible kindness and ability to love and to forgive.

January 31 at 6:28 PM

JB

John Brooks posted:

July 28, 2023
Friend Gregory D. Jay MD-PhD was saddened to learn of his passing. There are a great many other things that Eugene ('Gene') Davidson had accomplished in his career. During a sabbatical he was the chief scientific officer at ALCIDE chemical corporation in Farmingdale, Long Island. That is where I met him and he employed me for a summer as a recently graduated undergraduate from Stony Brook University. We worked on understanding how glycans would facilitate the generation of chlorous acid. He was a tremendously creative scientist and also exposed me to important pairings of certain cheeses and fine Bordeaux wines. On one occasion we stayed at his daughter's flat in the Lower East Side of New York as we were attempting to collect data on what is now an ancient instrument called a Cary 60 at NYU; collecting data on the above named project using optical rotatory dispersion. He supported my ideas as well and took great interest in my interest in the lubricin protein since it was heavily glycosylated and in the early to mid 1980s confusion as to whether it really existed. Individuals like Gene are very rare. Gifted with a zeal for life, creativity and an engaging open demeanor. I count him as one of my several mentors in my early career and I was fortunate to have been taught by him outside of a traditional academic setting. Gregory Jay MD-PhD

August 28 at 2:58 PM

EB

Eve Barak September 19 at 11:54 AM

I would like to add: Gene's Ph.D. Thesis was the determination of the correct molecular structure of glycosaminoglycans (e.g., Chondroitin sulfate). Gene published a book on "The Carbohydrates," which was novel in that it covered the field in chemical terms; and he was very active for many years in the Society for Glycobiology (and actively involved in its initial founding), & served as President of the Society (these are always one-year terms). He was also the organizer of the highly successful VIIIth International Symposium on Glycoconjugates (1985), in Houston, TX.. Gene loved teaching and mentoring bright young biochemists, many of whom later became well-known biochemists in their own right. Finally, Gene was the original author of the chapter on polysaccharides for the Encyclopedia Britannica.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Eugene by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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