

In memory of Donald Heyneman, Ph.D. FN-78



Don Heyneman and his wife Louise were a regular presence at our in-person meetings for decades. Don was always attentive and smiling during the presentations and regularly shared his accomplishments and travels with us. Don and his wife Louise moved to Novato a few years ago and the distance plus Covid limited their attendance at recent meetings. After one of Don's presentations a fellow explorer said "Don Heyneman is our chapter's expert parasitologist and has traveled to more disease-ridden Third World countries than anybody I know. Always the optimist, always encouraging, his advice was always practical." That describes Don to a T.

In 1992, when Don spoke to our chapter, he was identified as a peripatetic parasitologist and his topic was "Humans and Helminths". But a dictionary was never needed when listening to Don. He had the enviable ability to make parasitic worms become fascinating to the lay folks as well as the experts. During his official teaching career, he was often voted best professor and this skill extended into his day-to-day conversations.

He brought a deep medical knowledge to his teaching and research. But, like all good explorers, he was a good observer – chasing a tsetse fly across the savannah to learn its flying speed and recognized the pesticide benefits of the fruit of endod while watching women in Ethiopia use it to wash the clothes.

Don also was an avid hiker and mountain climber. Early in his career, he headed to the cold regions, joining the Ski Troops of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in the Colorado Rockies. His vocation took him frequently to tropical areas, like Egypt, Sudan, and Malaysia to research tropical parasites; but continued climbing much of his life. He climbed Mt. Langley when he was 74 and the next year, he did a circumambulation of Mt. Kailash. Well into his 90s, he was walking about 2 miles daily to tour his neighborhood.

Don died at his home in Novato on August 2, 2022. The remembrance of his life will be held on what would have been his 98th birthday, February 18, 2023. Donald Heyneman's Family has invited Don's explorers' friends to join them for his Memorial Service on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 10:30am with a reception to follow. Both will be at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco. Everyone whose lives were touched by Don is invited.

Don's obituary can be found by doing a web search – 'Donald Heyneman Obituary'.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to:

- Amazon Conservation Team, <https://www.amazonteam.org/donate>
- Earth Justice, <https://tinyurl.com/2n3jkxhw>
- National Audubon Society, <https://tinyurl.com/7682j42f>
- The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, <https://www.uusf.org/donate>