
Erwin BUNCEL

ERWIN BUNCEL May 31, 1931 - December 19, 2018 Erwin Buncel passed away peacefully on December 19, 2018. Erwin was a Professor of Chemistry at Queen's University in Kingston. He was an acknowledged worldwide expert in physical organic chemistry and his contributions have become landmarks for others in the fields of nucleophilic substitution, ion pairing and catalysis, carbanion reactivities and structures, and isotope effects. He taught organic chemistry to hundreds of students, supervised graduate theses and mentored post doctorate students from around the world. Erwin published more than 350 articles, 4 books, 14 chapters, and 19 edited monographs. He had a special interest in applying his knowledge and expertise to world needs, particularly those in developing countries. He began his career at Queen's in 1962 and after his retirement in 1996, he continued his highly productive work as an emeritus professor well into his 80's. Erwin received awards such as the 1985 Society of Chemistry Syntex Award and the R.U. Lemieux Award in organic chemistry and in 2014, he was inducted into the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada for excellence and life-time achievements in the field of chemistry. Erwin was known for his caring, gentle, and unassuming nature. He survived terrible hardships as a youth in the Holocaust including time spent in the concentration camps and the loss of his parents and a beloved older sister. When the war ended, Erwin went to England and resumed his studies, discovering a love of science, sports, and classical music. He inspired everyone with his quiet and hard-working perseverance. He was a mensch, a loving husband and a supportive grandfather. His past endurance of hardship made him a stoic patient as he coped with the harsh reality of his later life illness. Erwin is survived by Henny, Irene and Jacquie Buncel (Lorraine Gale), grandchildren Jacob Raphael, Noah Laurent, Aviva Fiona and Maya Naomi. The family would like to thank the staff of Baycrest at the Apotex Centre, in particular Mary, Paulette, Emelda, Edna, Alla and Berma and his caregivers, Adelina and Melanie for their assistance. The family would also like to acknowledge the support of their extended family, friends and colleagues over the course of Erwin's illness. At Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel, 2401 Steeles Avenue West, Toronto (3 lights west of Dufferin) for service on Friday, December 21, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. Interment in the Community section of Pardes Chaim Cemetery. Shiva at 22 Bloomfield Avenue, Toronto. Memorial donations may be made to The Erwin Buncel Memorial Fund c/o The Benjamin Foundation 416-780-0324 www.benjamins.ca

Funeral Home**Benjamin's Park Memorial Chapel**

2401 Steeles Avenue West Toronto, ON M3J 2P1
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