

## Elliot H. Auerbach



***Elliot Auerbach receiving an award from the Suffolk Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union.***

Elliot H. Auerbach, a BNL physicist for almost 40 years and a founding member of BREA in 2003, died on December 23, 2015, at the age of 83. He retired from the AGS Department on October 13, 1999.

Elliot's commitment to BREA was first recorded in the minutes of the BREA Executive Committee meeting of

January 14, 2004, which noted: "Elliot Auerbach has agreed to be the fact finder on the new Medicare legislation and will probably put something together for the BREA website." As BREA President Liz Seubert observed, "Elliot never wavered in his determination to see that BREA members were kept well-informed on medical and other matters critical to BNL's retirement community. We could not have weathered the past two years of medical insurance changes without him, and his dedication and intelligent, dry humor will be sorely missed."

Prior to first joining BNL in January 1961, Elliot, a mathematics major, graduated from Columbia College in 1953, then continued at Columbia doing graduate work in nuclear physics. From 1958-1961, he worked at the General Electric Company's Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Schenectady, New York, then came to BNL where he worked in the Applied Mathematics Department until August 1964, when he left BNL to do research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Laboratory for Nuclear Science. Returning in September 1966, Elliot worked at the Tandem Van de Graaff, the Physics Department Nuclear Theory Group, and the AGS Department until his retirement, 33 years later.

Rita Auerbach, Elliot's wife of 44 years, found a paper in which he described his work at BNL as being "engaged in computation of models for physical systems – nuclei, nuclear structure, particle accelerators, using large-scale computer programs – some of them authored by me, some adaptations of programs by others." His career yielded 38 publications in the fields of nuclear physics,

atomic & molecular physics, and computational physics, as well as citations by 208 authors.

Elliot also had other compelling interests, as noted in his New York Times obituary, published on December 27, 2015:

*AUERBACH--Elliot H.*

*December 23, 2015. Elliot was a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory for more than three decades and a proud member of the Board of Directors of the New York Civil Liberties Union and of its Suffolk County Chapter. In addition to his accomplishments as a scientist, he lived an active life as a skier and world traveler. Elliot will be missed by all who enjoyed him, his wonderful sense of humor and his extraordinary mind. He is survived by his loving wife, Rita Auerbach; his sister, Brenda Seitelman, and her family; and his brother-in-law, Todd Breitbart. Contributions in his memory can be made to the New York Civil Liberties Union-Suffolk County Chapter, Touro Law Public Advocacy Center, 225 Eastview Drive, PA 221, Central Islip, NY 11722.*



**Elliot  
Auerbach  
addresses a  
meeting of the  
New York Civil  
Liberties  
Union –  
Suffolk County  
Chapter.**

As a BREA Executive Board member, Elliot also supported the social side of the organization, as shown in this item about the first BREA Luncheon, from the Brookhaven Bulletin of April 30, 2004:

### ***BREA Get-Together Luncheon, 5/27***

The Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (BREA) committee is working hard and looking forward to seeing as many BNL retirees as possible at the grand BREA get-together luncheon from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 27, at Villa Lombardi's, 877 Main Street, Holbrook (see <http://www.villalombardis.com>). All are invited to join in and reminisce with friends, catch up with acquaintances, and enjoy a spectacular buffet feast with live entertainment to dance or listen to. The cost of this BREA-subsidized treat is \$30.00 per person — in advance.

To register, visit the BREA web page at [www.brea.bnl.gov](http://www.brea.bnl.gov) or complete and return the form below. All paid reservations must be received by May 14.



Roger Stoutenburgh 02600404

At BNL for a meeting are BREA Committee and Board members: (from left) Lew Jacobson, Graham Campbell, Luncheon Chair Renée Flack, Barney McAlary, BREA President Joyce Tichler, George Rabinowitz, Elliott Auerbach, Sonja Santos, Flo O'Brien, and Jules Godel.