

PETER THIEBERGER

Longtime Brookhaven resident Peter Thieberger died on August 30, 2022 at the age of 86. He had been working since 1965 as a particle physicist at Brookhaven National Lab (BNL), one of 17 national facilities overseen by the U.S. Department of Energy. He leaves behind a professional legacy of innovations in accelerator science and instrumentation that quietly influenced many developments in energy, technology and physics.

Born in Vienna, Austria on September 19, 1935, Peter relocated with his family to Argentina at a young age. He pursued a degree at the University of Buenos Aires School of Science in 1959 and moved his family to Stockholm, Sweden to complete his Ph.D. at the Nobel Institute for Physics. His family then settled in Suffolk County, NY, where Peter joined the BNL team and eventually became Chief of Operations and Senior Scientist at the world-renowned Tandem van de Graaff Facility and Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). He remained a pioneer in his field, devising and overseeing experiments, publishing countless studies with his peers and attracting outside companies to make use of BNL's cutting-edge facilities.

A gentle soul, Peter enjoyed spending time with family and interacting with his local community. He made charitable donations to a number of local organizations and was a great patron of music, drama and dance events in the area as well as in Manhattan. He embarked on a genealogical project to construct a Thieberger family tree and discovered many long lost relatives across the globe. He also took great efforts to connect his Argentinian family and friends with medical resources in the U.S. and helped assist a number of displaced South Americans with donations, employment and opportunities for growth.

Peter was fluent in German, Span-



ish and English as well as Swedish during his years studying in Stockholm. When he wasn't visiting with family or friends, he enjoyed reading, watching movies, taking walks at Smith Point Beach or at local nature preserves and writing computer programs. A lover of animals from an early age, Peter was adored by the dogs and horses in his family. He was a generous neighbor, with a reputation for giving full-size candy bars on Halloween and occasionally hiring local kids to shovel him out after a blizzard. His gratitude and boisterous laughter touched everyone around him.

Peter is survived by his son Ed, daughter-in-law and granddaughter in Westchester County, NY, brother and sister-in-law, a niece and nephews and their families in Buenos Aires. The family has established a "Peter Thieberger Memorial STEM Scholarship" to be awarded annually to a Bellport High School senior pursuing a college degree in STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). His legacy gift will benefit STEM students for generations and hopefully inspire others to support educational opportunities in these vital fields.

To make a donation, please contact STEMscholarship@thieberger.net.