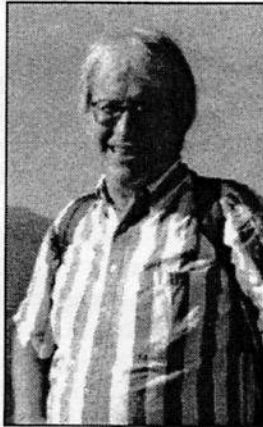


BRUCE W. OATMAN, 1937 - 2009

Bruce Oatman died Aug. 17, 2009 from osteosarcoma (bone cancer). He was elected to the Common Ground-USA Board of Directors in 2008, but in a phone call to Common Ground-USA president Nadine Stoner on July 28, 2009 said in a whispered voice he had to resign because of his terminal illness. Bruce was a co-founder and member of the resuscitated Common Ground NYC chapter chaired by Rita Rowan. Bruce, Cay Hehner, Rita Rowan and some others co-hosted an event in NYC during the Eastern Economic Association meetings in February, 2009.



Bruce chaired the Education Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Henry George School of New York on which he had served since 2003. He had been introduced to Georgism around 1991 at the Henry George School of New York and taught a variety of courses there for 11 years. Cay Hehner was one of Bruce's first teachers when George Collins was still executive director. Later, as head of the board search committee, Bruce hired Cay Hehner Ph.D. as the Director of Education. Learning of Bruce's death in a phone call from Eric Oatman, Cay praised Bruce saying, he had a "keenness of intellect, open-mindedness, generosity to a fault, an inclusive nature, a good more than a Protestant work ethic and many more qualities."

Bruce was elected to the Robert Schalkenbach board of directors in June, 2008. Bruce had attended most of the Council of Geogist Organizations annual conferences since 1999.

He loved choral music and in 2008 joined the Mendelssohn Glee Club of NYC as a second tenor. It is the oldest men's chorus in the U.S.—except for the Harvard Glee Club, in which he also sang

Bruce was born November 22, 1937 in New York. He graduated from Hackley School in Tarrytown, after attending Roosevelt H.S. in Yonkers in his freshman and sophomore years, and held degrees from Harvard and New School for Social Research. He had been a sociology professor, with a specialty in urban sociology, in upstate New York for a dozen years. He was a social worker for the City of NY for 23 years, working mostly with mentally ill and homeless AIDS populations. Previously he was a bookseller for 3 years and a manager of a market research firm for 2 years.

He is survived by daughters Rachelle Ringsby and Erica Oatman, a brother Eric Oatman, a sister-in-law, and a niece. He was predeceased by his parents.

Final arrangements are being worked out with the Community Church of NY, one of the city's few activist churches. A memorial service probably will be held in early October at the UU church in NYC of which he and brother Eric are lapsed members .

"Anyone wishing to make a memorial contribution in Bruce Oatman's name may make them out to the Henry George School of NY, and mail them to 121 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016, to the attention of Cay Hehner, Director of Education."