



Walter K. Schoenholz, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Biological Sciences, Passed Away March 18, 2016

Walter K. Schoenholz, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Biological Sciences, passed away March 18, 2016. He began his career at CSU, Hayward (East Bay) in the fall of 1965 and retired in July 1988.

The following has been provided by his family.

*DR. WALTER KURT SCHOENHOLZ
WALNUT CREEK
January 23, 1923—March 18, 2016*

Family and friends are mourning the passing of Dr. Walter Kurt Schoenholz, Professor Emeritus at California State University, East Bay, at the age of 93.

Professor Schoenholz was born on January 23, 1923 in Recklinghausen, Germany. He emigrated in 1937 with his family to what was then Palestine, where he worked as a farmer and fought in Israel's war for independence. In 1951, he emigrated to the U.S. to begin his formal education.

Walter was an outstanding student, first at City College of San Francisco, then at UC Berkeley, where he earned his B.S., his Masters, and his PhD in Microbiology. By the time he started his career as a professor at the University of New Mexico, he was a 40-year-old father of three. His next (brief) stop was the University of Illinois before he returned to the Bay Area for good in 1967 to teach at what was then Cal State Hayward as professor of microbiology. At Hayward, he developed and ran a degree program in medical technology, helping countless students embark on their career paths. He retired as Professor Emeritus in 1988.

In addition to his academic career, Walter had numerous other interests. He was well-known in his Walnut Creek neighborhood for his amazing backyard vegetable garden; and he was an avid stamp collector, which dovetailed with his interest in world geography.

Walter also had an encyclopedic knowledge of world history and was a perceptive analyst of U.S. foreign policy, particularly as it applied to the Middle East. He liked nothing better than to track current events and to debate their implications with his friends and family.

Walter was a kind and gentle soul; he had a dry sense of humor and a wisdom born of first-hand experience, all of which remained with him even as his health declined in his later years. Walter's beloved wife, Ilse, preceded him in death. He is survived by daughter, Naomi of Vallejo, and sons, Michael (Debbie) and Daniel (Mary) of Walnut Creek; and by his three grandchildren, Jocelyn, Jake, and Eva, all of whom greatly miss their "Opa."