**BIOCOMM 2007, Tucson**

*Where time flies like an arrow, but fruit flies like a peach*

So here I sit, in my comfortable office (cubice?) reminiscing about another successful biocommunications conference. As implied in the title above, it took place in Tucson. You know, hot, dry, desert place. Where people walk their scorpions on leashes because the gila monsters have eaten all the cock-a-poos.

Except what we experienced last week was more like a Caribbean Island during hurricane season. Sure, it was hot, but not that hot. The problem was that the humidity was horribly high, like 115%. All I had to do was think about leaving the air-conditioned hotel and my shirt would be soaked with sweat. I’ve never taken more showers in one week (except for that one weekend with the Banford sisters)! And rain? It rained about 137 inches on the first day we were there. Small moving vans were floating down the street out front. Chris Quint was surfing the curls in the gutter!

Fortunately, there were plenty of diversions inside the hotel, not the least of which was the conference I was privileged to attend. The conference was a gem from the opening reception, with the first showing of BioImages and the awarding of awards, to the naming of the new Fellows at the banquet. There were excellent presentations about twisted pixels and reptiles in Ecuador. Jack Dykinga’s keynote speech was inspiring. Imagine a person of his skills and talent talking to a bunch of shutter heads like us! His photos were pretty good, too.

Perhaps the most moving moments were when Adobe Lady, Lynn Grillo, dangled peeks of CS3 in front of us. There were groans, moans and gasps. I actually heard Adam Cooper offer up his son, Josh, in trade for a beta version. I was tingling down to the roots of my toenails!

To describe all the excellent speakers and topics would take more letters than my keyboard has. But if I had to single out the one most special aspect of Biocomm 2007,
it would be People. It is people who make any professional conference a success. And I’m not just talking about the presenters. It’s being able to walk up to a group of co-attendees, telling them about your appendix operation, and not having to beg someone to let you out of the broom closet afterwards. No, at BIOCOMM they would actually ask if you had pictures of the operation! At this meeting, everyone is, if not your friend, then they are the cousin you see every Christmas. The one you see long enough to trade lies about your kids, but not long enough to get tired of.

By the time Rick McNeely delivered the Pioneer Lecture on Friday, we were all rolling around on the floor like sated emperors of Rome. By the time Gabe Unda had won every door prize offered up at the conference-ending banquet, we were sitting around like glazed-eyed zombies at a Louisiana barbecue. By the time Bill Fortney said, “Y’all come back next time, y’heal!” at the end of Friday’s all-day photography workshop we were melted puddles of contentment in our Chuck Taylors.

In conclusion, BIOCOMM 2007 was definitely one of the best conferences I attended last week. In an article like this, it is hard to touch on all the high points and mention all the excellent speakers. But then again, most people would just as soon not have their name associated with an article like this. Which is why I’m going to use a pen-name.

Nicholas Antonovich Zook

BIOCOMM 2007
Touching on the High points

The 77th annual BCA meeting ranks as one of the best to date and Tucson was a great choice. It’s home to many photographers including the keynote speaker and nature photographer, Jack Dykinga. Jack gave a spectacular and inspirational presentation that included incredible desert and cacti photography. Richard McNeely showed how telemedicine grew from a few local sites to 160 in the state of Arizona. Lynn Grillo and Ashley Manning from Adobe Systems presented Adobe Creative Suite 3 and offered on-hand workshops. There was an incredibly talented group of BCA members who presented on topics ranging from photographing sea weed to reptiles to crime scenes. Both traditional photography and latest cutting edge technology were explored, providing participants not only the opportunity to see the work but ask questions and explore the techniques, creativity and inspiration behind their work.

Events

The meeting began with BioImages, a long time tradition at BCA meetings. This year it was chaired by Jeb Zirato, Arizona Health Science Center at Tucson. Best of Show was awarded for a photograph titled, Life by Peter Barta, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. Great job Jeb! All the winners can be viewed in the gallery section of our web site: www.bca.org

There were also two special exhibits this year. Abby Root chose a wonderful group of photographs from the collection of her late husband, Nile Root that were displayed with the salon images. Norm Barker exhibited a large group of colorful historical images from a Patent Medicine project.

But it didn’t end here…
Out and About in Tucson
An afternoon was set aside to visit the Center for Creative Photography. It is the largest museum of its kind in North America and home to more than 60,000 works by 2,000 photographers. Most notable are Richard Avedon, Lola Alvarez Bravo, Harry Callahan, Louise Dahl-Wolfe, Imogen Cunningham, W. Eugene Smith, Edward Weston, and Aron Siskind and the list goes on. Participants were given a presentation by Dianne Nilsen, Head of Digital Initiatives/Imaging, followed by group tours of the public exhibit hall, the PrintViewing room with selected work from major photographers and behind the scene tour of how the images are scanned and archived. It was an amazing afternoon to meet with the Center’s staff and see how much is done to preserve and share the master works of so many photographers. But it didn’t end here….

Awards
Awards mark another BCA tradition. The Louis Schmidt Award, the Ralph Creer Service Award and three Fellowships were given. Prizes were awarded to workshop and program attendees.

This year also marks the first year a BCA member was awarded a certificate for best presentation. For more information on the awards go to pages 6-8.

But it didn’t end here…

Workshops
Where there are BCA members there’s an atmosphere of creativity and an appetite to learn. An entire day was dedicated to hands on workshops that dealt with the latest technology sponsored by Adobe, Sappi, and DigitalDerm. In addition workshops were added that provided participants the opportunity to explore the creative side of photography in a city rich with diverse and dramatic landscapes and creatures. Chip Hedgcock coordinated a unique workshop he described as Jewels of the Night. Bill Fortney, Nikon Professional Support, wrapped up the meeting with a full day workshop in the Sonora Desert.
Jewels of the Night

Karna McKinney

When I first heard rumors that Chip Hedgcock planned to lead a workshop, which included photographing insects at night (at night versus predawn!) in the Arizona's Sonoran Desert, I figured I would be the first person to sign up.

Twenty-four of us boarded vans and drove out of Tucson to the Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute (SASI) located in the Tucson Mountain Park, arriving before sunset. In the laboratory at Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute, SASI, Chip demonstrated his methods for corralling little desert creatures, insects and other arthropods, using sand, rocks and vegetation found in the animals' natural habitats as backgrounds in shoebox-like containers. He showed us lighting techniques and talked about adapting equipment for successful macro images. Lights and white sheets were set up outdoors to attract insects to photograph. Renee Lizotte, Arizona Sonora Desert Museum, Carl "Bug Man" Olson and Alex Yelich, University of Arizona, Department of Entomology kindly spent the evening assisting us with the specimens and answering endless questions. After the sun set, it was difficult to choose between photographing in the laboratory or outside in the beautiful desert night. People were enjoying both.

country, I chose outside. Besides, I'd heard certain scorpions fluoresce when exposed to UV light and I came prepared to look for them with a UV flashlight. Great fun! I wish we could have stayed all night. Left with some images I like and some new friends I hope to see next year. Thank you Chip, and thanks also to the ASMP Foundation for sponsoring Jewels of the Night.

Wrap Up

BCA has had so many wonderful achievements this year with the annual meeting at the top of the list. BCA presentations and workshops are indispensable and it is always an opportunity to share our work and achievements. These achievements would simply not have been possible without the help of so many talented BCA members.

Much of the credit for this year’s successes goes to the BCA planning committee: Thomas Bednarek, Chip Hedgcock, Richard Frederickson. Jeb Zirato, Cliff Pollack, along with the support of many other members. A special thank you to the Arizona Health Science Center Biomedical Communications AV team, Barry Bernard, Randy Grohman, Denise Leahy and Ted Crary. They used personal time off to provide AV support at the meeting. Everyone did an outstanding job, and the energy and excitement that is committed to the BCA is truly inspirational.
An early morning sunrise shoot found us once more in the company of Bill Fortney, with Nikon Professional Services. A bleary-eyed busload of nature-loving photographers took off bright and early to shoot the Arizona sunrise and the desert, with its abundant flora and fauna. A foray into the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum as well recreated those desert landscapes, providing endless photographic opportunities.

When we returned, a discussion ensued, with topics ranging from composition and light to chocolate and cheeseburgers (Bill’s favorites). Bill also shared with us the two obstacles that get in the way of ideal lighting and great photographs, otherwise known as breakfast and dinner.

Once more, Bill held his annual photographic contest, with a twist this time. No point-and-shoots; we used our own equipment. At the end of the day, all participants could enter one image taken during our desert excursion, and everyone present would cast one vote for his/her favorite image. At the end of the tally, Gabriel Unda emerged the winner, for his spectacular sunrise photo. Selecting amongst the Great American Photography Workshops, Gabriel will attend a session of his choosing in a scenic and inspiring venue. Congratulations Gabriel!
Michael R. Peres, RBP, FBPA
Honored with Schmidt Award

Michael R. Peres has had a distinguished career as an educator, photographer, writer, editor, and imaging consultant for more than 25 years. He has served as Program Chair and Professor in the Biomedical Photographic Communications program in the School of Photographic Arts & Sciences of Rochester Institute of Technology since 1989. He began his association with the department in 1986. In 2003, Peres was awarded the RIT Eisenhart Award, given for outstanding teaching at the University for his innovation and activities in the classroom. Peres also serves as one of the coordinators of the RIT Big Shot and the Images from Science exhibition.

During the past 20 years at R.I.T., one of the world’s most-acclaimed centers for advanced study in the imaging arts and sciences, Peres has educated and influenced an entire generation of students. Dedicated to their creative and professional development, Peres has played a major role in preparing them for successful careers as leaders in their field of photographic endeavor. Before he began his teaching career, he worked as the supervisor of photography at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI as well as the Chief Medical Photographer, West Virginia University Medical Center, Charleston, WV.

An exhibiting photographer, his work has been featured in numerous exhibitions, including several solo exhibitions. He is currently serving as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the Lennart Nilsson Award (Stockholm, Sweden) a position he was invited to assume in 1998. Peres has been actively publishing for most of his career and most recently served as Editor-in-Chief for the completely revised 888 page Focal Encyclopedia of Photography, Fourth Edition published in April 2007 by Focal Press, Boston MA. Michael Peres earned a B.A. in Biology from Bradley University, Peoria, IL in 1978 and he continued his education at Rochester Institute of Technology, earning a B.S. degree in Biomedical Photographic Communications in 1982 as well as a M.S. in Instructional Technology in 1991.


Peres has been an active member of the BioCommunications Association since 1978, and was awarded a Fellowship in 1995. He was a member of the Board of Governors and was also Director, Committee for Professional Education from 1995-1998. As Workshop Coordinator, he organized the workshops for BIOCOMM 96, 97, 98, 03 & 04. He has served the organization in numerous other capacities on both the international and chapter level. He resides in Rochester, New York with his wife Laurie and children Jonathan and Leah. Congratulations Michael!
**Fellowship in BCA** is granted “for distinguished craftsmanship and meritorious contribution to the advancement of media in the life sciences.” Over 170 people have been honored with the distinction of Fellow. In 2007, three members were granted fellowship.

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**Charlene Baron**

Charlene is employed as a Digital Imaging Specialist in Cell Biology, a research and teaching department at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, MA. She earned a Masters of Education in Instructional Design and has worked in the biocommunications field for over 25 years. Charlene joined the BPA/BCA in 1988. She has shared her knowledge and expertise via numerous publications, posters and oral presentations. Charlene has held a number of positions of leadership including her most recent appointment to President of the BCA. She has also served as the BCA Vice President, BCA Director of Communications, Editor BCA News and various positions in her local chapter. Charlene Baron has been a driving force in moving the BCA website from a static and neglected document to a major part of the BCA presence. Charlene's diligence and dedication has earned her the honor of Fellowship in recognition of her contributions to the field of biocommunications and service to the Association.

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**Gabriel (Gabe) Unda**

Gabe has had an exemplary career that has spanned better than four decades. His contributions to the University and the U.C. Medical Center in Sacramento have been exceptional throughout the years. Gabe, a graduate from Brooks Institute of Photography, has fully embraced all the changing technologies, and readily shares his knowledge with his peers and his clients. He is passionate about his work, which is par excellence. Gabe's stellar career is punctuated with his willingness to help others understand how best to utilize the various technologies. As a practitioner, and teacher, of biocommunications, Gabe has truly been an outstanding credit to the profession. His long record of distinguished craftsmanship and meritorious contributions to the advancement of media in the life sciences, Gabe was highly recommended for the BCA Fellowship.

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**Charles (Chip) Hedgcock**

Chip, a long standing member and participant in the BCA was certified as a Registered Biological Photographer in 1987. He is also a member of the American Society of Media Photographers and the Stock Artist Alliance. Chip is a frequent contributor to BioImages. He chaired the BCA 2007 workshops and served on our EFFE committee. Chip has a large body of work and numerous publications and exhibits to his credit. His images of microfauna, mostly insects, have revealed a world that is seldom considered and shown us not only wonder but the beauty of the natural world. This is shown by the popularity of his workshops at annual meetings and the repeated awards at our BioImages Salon. He has had several solo exhibitions of his work at museums as well as inclusion in group shows. His work has appeared on the covers of our journal and a special gallery of his work was featured this year. One critic commented that he “is to insects what Weston was to peppers.” His work is exceptional and masterfully done.

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Cheryl Montgomery, Portland, OR was the official photographer for BIOCOMM 2007, Thank you Cheryl!
The 2007 Ralph Creer Service Award
In honor of BCA’s founding president, the Association has established the Ralph Creer Service Award. Recognizing those who have served the Association and its members with distinction, this award is given by BCA’s president.

Robert C. Turner, RBP, FBPA Receives Ralph Creer Service Award
Jim Fosse

When I first came on the Board of Governors I counted on the vast experience of Bob Turner. Planning meetings was made unbelievably easier by that vast wealth of information he readily gave whenever I needed it. A row of post-it notes adorned the edge of my monitor all saying “Call Bob Turner”. Whenever the annual meeting was coming up you could count on physical and moral support coming from Scripps Institute. Bob would be bringing projectors, stands, audio equipment, always saying I just thought you might need these.

As BCA president he served with an easy grace that smoothed difficult issues and sometimes even more difficult personalities. Always with an eye toward improving BCA.

His years of service to the Journal and to its board are legendary. Through all the difficulties of getting each issue in the mail he never once became disheartened or frustrated with the process. He was always focused on making the journal the best. Today he continues to add value to BCA membership and stands as a great example to those who follow.

Bob is recognized for his outstanding service and leadership as BCA representative and Chair of the Journal of Biocommunication’s Management Board. His career service as BCA President, Director of Conferences, member of the Board of Registry, and consistent supporter of his Chapter remains exemplary. Bob is a model BCA member both in words and deeds. BCA has been supremely served by having him as a long time member.

Best Presentation by a BCA Member

Gale Spring, Associate Professor and Program Leader of Scientific Photography at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, received first place for his presentation on Forensic Photography in a CSI World. This is the first award of its kind. The BCA wants to promote participation in presentations and give recognition to those members who share their findings and expertise at annual meetings. Sorry, next years recipient will probably not receive a bottle of wine.

The Board of Governors is designing a new certificate.
President’s Letter

As I accept the president’s gavel from Jim Fosse RBP, FBCA, I realize I have big shoes to fill. Jim’s goal was to reach out to members by hosting online Webinars, creating educational opportunities for BCA members with Adobe and to welcome each member to the organization with a personally signed letter, phone call, and listening ear. I thank Jim for his leadership, spirit and contributions to the association and look forward to working with him during my presidency and to continue with the programs he has started.

Following the success of last winter’s Webinar Jim Koepfler, Chair of COPE, is coordinating the upcoming Webinar about Lightroom presented by longtime New England Chapter friend, Bob DiNatale. The Webinar will be live on Wednesday, November 14 at 2:00 PM EST. Be sure to check out www.bca.org for more details and registration links.

This issue of the BCA News features the people and events from BIOCOMM 2007 in Tucson, Arizona. I would like to thank the Tucson planning team for the many hours of work it took to coordinate this event. I would also like to thank the members who attended the meeting – their participation, interest and enthusiasm make all the hours spent organizing worthwhile. For those who were unable to attend and participants who want to listen again – podcasts of some presentations are available in the “Members Only” area of the website!

The Rochester planning team is pleased to announce that “IMAGinING the Future” is the theme for BIOCOMM 2008. A contest is underway to design a logo for the meeting. Please send your entries to Tom Bednarek, Director of Conferences. The call for abstracts will be sent out soon, so be thinking about what you would like to present at the meeting or forward names of presenters to the planning committee.

One of my goals as president is to take a look at what our current members and potential members need and want from the BCA. The first step in gathering this information will be to create a web-based survey. John Hendrix RBP, FBCA has agreed to develop this survey and hopes to distribute the link later this fall. The responses will be useful for creating new services for members, planning the annual meeting and assisting with putting (Ikenberg) Lindberg bequest to good use.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your President. Feel free to contact me with your thoughts and suggestions regarding the organization. Plan now to attend BIOCOMM 2008 in Rochester, and when you receive the survey please take a few minutes to answer the questions. It will be a big help to all of us!

Thanks and Cheers,

[Signature]
The School of Photographic Arts and Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, N.Y., is proud to be organizing the exhibition and catalogue, IMAGES from SCIENCE 2008, scheduled for its opening in the fall of 2008. The organizers are soliciting images created specifically for the purpose of recording of scientific and engineering research or images from other related fields such as oceanography, geology, biology, engineering, medicine, physics, or other related disciplines.

IMAGES from SCIENCE 2008 is planned to be a showcase of photographs made in the pursuit of scientific information. Since the exhibition is soliciting images worldwide we would appreciate you sharing this announcement with others to accomplish our goal of developing this unique and international exhibition for a wide range of contributors.

Inclusion into this juried show will be based on the photograph's impact, the image's aesthetics, the degree of difficulty in the making of the photograph as well as other related criteria as applied from a wide range of jurors. Persons submitting images must certify that they own the copyright to the image(s). Judging, will take place in Rochester, N.Y., March 2008. There is no entry fee.

To be considered for this exhibition sample digital files must be submitted for the judging process. A maximum of four images per creator may be submitted for judging. JPEG files with a resolution of about 640 x 480 pixels, medium compression resulting in image file sizes of less than 100 kb, should be emailed as attachments to RITphoto@rit.edu by February 28, 2008. Make sure to include the word IMAGES in the subject line of the message to which the images are attached.

In addition to the e-mail submission, please include the following information for each image:

1) photographer and/or organization's name
2) title of the photograph
3) subject photographed
4) any relevant data about the experiment
5) imaging equipment used

For more detailed information and inquiries contact Andrew Davidhazy, RIT professor of imaging and photographic technology at andpph@rit.edu or Michael Peres, RIT professor of biomedical photographic communications at mrppph@rit.edu

The conference will be hosted at the Strathallan Hotel, Rochester, NY. The hotel rates are; Studios $109 and Suites $119. and include a hot breakfast every morning. Rates are good for three days before and after the meeting. The Strathallan Hotel, a suite hotel, is located close to neighborhood restaurants and the George Eastman House.

Call for Participation and Workshop abstracts forms will be available shortly. Please email your ideas for workshops and presenters. I look forward to working with each of you during the next months to create a great annual meeting!

Thanks to all of you for volunteering to put this meeting together!

Tom Bednarek, Director of Conferences

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Images that Speak
Jim Fosse

The National Association of Photoshop Professionals and the BioCommunications Association are exploring the development of tutorials for Photoshop CS3 Extended. NAPP wants to develop specific tutorials for Photoshop users in research and medicine and they need the help of BCA members. What Photoshop Extended tools would you like to see a tutorial for? Perhaps one on using the measuring tools to create scale bars for photomicrographs, or how to use the new Dicom imaging tools. Be creative! NAPP has lots of images of cute puppies and people on vacation to build tutorials with but few medical or science related images. As BCA members we have access to those images that really speak to this market. Here’s a chance to put your best out there and get credit for it plus free membership in NAPP for individuals who assist with specific tutorials.

If you have a suggestion please email it to Charlene Baron at charlene.baron@umassmed.edu She will pass on your ideas. What, have you got to lose?
BCA Member Profile
Norm Barker, RBP, FBPA

Seaweeds: Wonders of the Ocean Realm at The Charleston Museum

Norm Barker’s most recent collaborative project is a book and museum exhibit about the beauty and wonder of seaweeds. Along with his colleague Giraud Foster they examine the history of early algology (the study of algae) and its relationship with early photographic processes. Since the inception of photography, plants were often used as subject matter. Not just because of easy access but because of the Victorian blossoming interest in botany and anything scientific. In the early 19th century the beach became a place of recreation and not some forbidding place where shipwrecks occurred.

Along with this interest, came a truly remarkable Englishwoman, Anna Atkins (1799–1871), the first woman photographer and the first person to use photography to illustrate a scientific book. Her book Photographs of British Algae was published in twelve parts between 1843 and 1853 and contained more than four hundred images of algae, intended to be bound into three volumes. Fewer than twenty copies are known to have survived.

While working on another project Norm was behind the scenes of the natural history collection at The Charleston Museum. He was shown some old books of pressed plants that were probably collected by some amateur hobbyist/naturalists and donated to the museum more than one hundred years ago. He was enthralled at how well the specimens were preserved and the gorgeous subtle color as well as the patina of age that had etched upon the paper on which the plants were pressed. Norm said, “The color and diversity of many of the specimens are so delicate in structure that they resemble Japanese paintings”. Along with curator Albert Sanders, they both agreed it would make a great exhibit and maybe even book! Well it took a couple of years and several trips back to Charleston by both Norm and Giraud. “Budgets for projects like this are extremely tight and finding time, especially when you have a demanding day job, is quite a challenge,” said Norm. He also did the scanning, photography and design for the book as well as all the printing and framing for the exhibit. Norm said, “The really fun thing was that we had total control over the design of the book and the museum staff took care of all the installation and gallery design”.

The traveling exhibit is a journey into both the wonders of seaweeds and the early history of their study. During the 19th century, collecting seaweeds was a popular hobby in coastal cities on the east coast of the U.S. Collectors would place wet seaweed specimens onto stiff paper to dry them and then put them into albums specially sold for that purpose. The exhibit includes examples of early microscopes used in the study of algology and many original specimens are shown. Also shown in cases are several different printing techniques used in 19th century books.

After Charleston, the exhibit moves to The Houston Museum of Natural History. As for new projects Norm says he’s working on doing all the photographs for a book entitled “The Alabaster Sculpture of Ancient Yemen.” In January, Norm is taking a month off from his day job as an Associate Professor of Pathology at Johns Hopkins to travel to Luxor, Egypt and help photograph pottery at the Temple of Karnack.
It was destined that Len Lessin become a photographer as he received 13 cameras at his bar
mitzvah but photography was not his only love. He grew up with a love of music that never abated.
In high school in Philadelphia in the 1940s, he and Maurice Fraser would sneak up to the music
room and play music by ear as Len hated to read music. He did break down to read and learn J.
S. Bach's Little Fugue in G Minor. Maurice (on harmonica) and Len (on accordion) recorded that
piece in 1947. His love of music also brought him a wife. Len had a great bass/baritone voice and
was singing in a chorus when he met fellow chorister Dona. Bach's B Minor Mass became their
song. The recording of Bach's Little Fugue in G Minor, along with another recording on which Len
playing a synthesizer in August 2002 and produced by his friend Andrew Donovan was played on Saturday, October 20,
2007 when Len's family and friends gathered to celebrate his life.

His resume does not do justice to a man with such diverse interests. He graduated from Ohio University with a BFA in Fine
Arts & Photography and did his post graduate work at Columbia University in film studies. He worked as a biomedical
photographer in the US Army Medical Corps. He was Director of Photography at Riverside Research Institute, NY and
Medical Photographer at the VA Medical Center, Bronx and Columbia Medical Center. He wrote numerous articles for
and was contributing editor to Photometheods magazine (Ziff-Davis). He managed to find time for freelance photo and
film research. He was active in professional societies. He was a fellow of the BPA (now the BCA), a past president of the
Industrial Photographers of NY, American Society of Picture Professionals and a fellow of the NY Microscopical Society.
Len was husband to Dona, father to Dan, father-in-law to Nicole, grandfather to Katie, and brother to Sandy. All who knew
him will remember him. Remembered for his warm, accepting, non-judgmental demeanor, his generous spirit, his love of
learning, his sense of humor, his grace and patience.