



## Alvin Herbert Davis

January 26, 1929 - May 30, 2017

Al was born in 1929 to Nathan and Ida Cohn Davis in Buffalo, New York, the youngest of three children.

He graduated from Fosdick-Masten Park High School in 1946, and followed his older brother and sister in winning both a State University Fellowship and the County Board of Supervisors Scholarship to the University of Buffalo.

After receiving his B.A. and M.A. in physics from the University of Buffalo, he then entered Yale University and received his Ph.D. in physics in 1955, focusing on the study of stellar atmospheres. While at Yale, he began hiking, folk dancing, and taught himself to play the recorder. Upon completion of his degree, Al moved to Livermore, California, where he worked for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory from 1955 to 1957.

While in Livermore, he met Norma Ruiz, and they married in 1956.

In 1957, they moved to Washington, DC, where Al had a National Science Foundation Fellowship at the Naval Research Laboratory. In 1959, the NRL Theory Group became the Theoretical Division of the newly formed NASA. Al worked there until 1967, primarily on astrophysics.

Two sons, Tony and Loren, were born during this time.

In 1967, Al took a job with the Environmental Research Corp, in Alexandria, Virginia, and worked there until 1969, when he and his family moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico. At Los Alamos National Laboratory, he worked on the phenomenology of underground nuclear explosions, technology assessment, nuclear waste management, and quality assurance in the context of scientific

laboratories.

Al retired in 1991, and he and his wife then moved to Corvallis, where they became active in music, dance, and art in the community. Al organized a recorder group, and sang with a choral group. He continued dancing — Scottish, English, folk, and contra. He also translated medieval French poetry, publishing three chapbooks of his favorite poems by Charles d'Orléans and several other French poets. He joined the French Club in 2001.

Al's wife Norma died in 2001, and he met Carol Williams in a hospice group the following year. She has been Al's dedicated, loyal, loving partner over the last 15 years. Together they enjoyed dancing, traveling, music, basketball, friends, and family.