

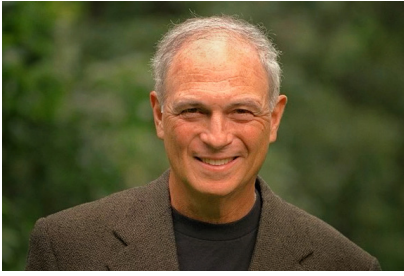
Celebration of Life
Harvey Feldman

Eddie Manderville Chalet
Theodore Wirth Park

1:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

April 25, 2025





In Loving Memory

Harvey Feldman

August 7, 1940 – November 5, 2024

Harvey Feldman died peacefully at his winter home in Tucson, AZ, surrounded by loving family Nov. 5, 2024, after a long series of illnesses.

Harvey was born Aug. 7, 1940, to Mike and Rose Feldman in Minneapolis. They lived in a duplex on the north side near the intersection of Plymouth and Russell avenues. He was a proud Minneapolis North High Polar class of 1958 graduate, where he played football, baseball, basketball, and was named the Hy Truman outstanding Jewish scholar-athlete by the Mercury Club in 1957. He had movie star good looks, drove a convertible, and drank strawberry pop.

Harvey had dreams of becoming a professional baseball player or a dancer in the mold of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly. Kids used to line up behind the backstop to watch him take batting practice, and he was named best dancer in his senior yearbook. He parlayed his childhood dreams into a long and distinguished career in parks and recreation after being the last player cut from the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers baseball team in 1959, and after a short stint teaching dance at the Arthur Murray School.

Harvey met Andrea “Andy” Marks at his best friend Melvin’s house; Andy was best friends with Melvin’s sister, Beth. Harvey and Andy were married Nov. 24, 1963, and were about to celebrate 61 years together at the time of his death. Remarkably, on the same day Harvey asked Andy to marry him he had an unexpected power surge and hit five home runs in a softball game at Aquila Park in St. Louis Park.

Harvey and Andy had two children, Brett and Stephanie. Harvey put the kids on tiny downhill skis as soon as they could walk; they became his two most dedicated ski companions for the rest of his life. He was legendary for hosting specially themed birthday parties, and he once scared all the neighborhood kids by performing a mock surgery from behind a backlit sheet, a storytelling art he perfected as a camp counselor.

Harvey received his B.S. in parks and recreation in 1962 and his M.Ed. in parks and recreation in 1996 from the University of Minnesota.

Following a season as a youth worker for the City of Crystal, Minnesota, parks while in college, he became the City of New Hope’s first parks and recreation director (1963-1970), before becoming the parks and recreation director in Richfield (1970-1975), and an assistant superintendent with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (1975-1996).

Harvey briefly served as interim director of parks and recreation for the City of St. Louis Park before shifting into teaching parks and recreation management for 12 years at the University of Minnesota where he took his mentorship to a new level teaching the next generations of park and recreation professionals.

After he retired from the University of Minnesota in 2008, he and a couple buddies who always wanted to work together teamed up to consult with park departments locally and nationally for several years. Students, colleagues, friends, neighbors, golf partners, ski buddies, and mentees knew he wanted them to succeed at whatever they were doing. He loved telling stories, sharing knowledge and offering encouragement in good times and bad. He was involved with various local, state and national parks associations throughout his entire adult life, and his family, friends and colleagues knew he loved them above all else.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his nephew Kenny.

He is survived by his wife, Andy; son, Brett (Elizabeth Haugen); daughter, Stephanie; sister, Marilyn; brother, Stanley (Carole); nephew Kyle; and honorary son Tsegaye Mengistu (Haimi Girma). For more on Harvey’s life please see the Star Tribune story published Nov. 7, 2024. If you are thinking of a way to honor Harvey’s life please consider making a donation to the Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation to a scholarship they have created in his name.





Acknowledgements

Harvey Feldman's family would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of his friends, colleagues and former students who have uplifted us with your love, kindness, cards, and stories that we never would have heard had you not taken the time to tell us how special he was to each of you. We are forever grateful to Harvey's late friend Ken Vraa and his wife Jan for their generosity and inspiration to work with the Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation

to establish a scholarship in Harvey's name for students pursuing careers in parks and recreation. Thanks also to the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association, National Recreation and Park Association, the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration and the Friends of Northwood Lake. You and your members were as important to Harvey as he was to you.

Celebration of Life

Harvey Feldman

August 7, 1940 – November 5, 2024

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

– Mahatma Gandhi

Welcome – Brett Feldman

Greeting – Reverend Nancy Anderson (Officiant)

Reading – Stephanie Feldman

Psalm 121

Reflections

Brett Feldman – son

Kyle Feldman – nephew

Miki Feldman – sister

Music – Gordon Christensen

"Forever Young"

Reflections

Seth Schwartz – son of Harvey's lifelong friend Melvin Schwartz

Jere Gwin-Lenth – neighbor and friend

Tim Jeffery – City of Richfield colleague and lifelong friend

Mary Merrill – former Minneapolis Parks superintendent and colleague

Leo McAvoy – University of Minnesota colleague

Bob and Mark Daly – sons of Harvey's best friend Pete Daly

Music – Gordon Christensen

"What a Wonderful World"

Prayer

Psalm from One Who Is Dying

Mourner's Kaddish

Music – Carol Nielsen

"Amazing Grace"

Sending Forth