



Stephen Hugh Koslow

October 14, 1940 - April 23, 2021

Stephen Hugh Koslow (Age 80)

A sharp dresser, with a sparkle in his eye and a poker face, Steve loved to make others laugh with his witty, often sarcastic humor. He would find the absolute perfect GIFs to send his grandkids on a regular basis, to communicate a sentiment with a single hilarious photo or video. Steve loved his adventures with his fishing buddies to remote parts of Alaska, his annual ski vacations out west with his kids and his incredible international travels - too numerous to count. Most recently, Steve and his partner, Nancy, enjoyed traveling, movies, the arts and much laughter during their past four years together. Steve stayed connected to friends across the globe for decades, sharing a mutual passion for neuroscience and mental health. Steve's quest for knowledge never stopped; he kept abreast of the latest research advancements across a range of disciplines, actively engaging in the scientific field for six decades. On April 23, 2021, surrounded by his children and Nancy, in Hollywood, Florida, Stephen Hugh Koslow passed away.

Steve was born in New York City on October 14, 1940. He grew up in the Bronx, with his sister Virginia (Ginny) and parents Julius and Lilian Koslow. Family was an important aspect of his life; Steve and Ginny grew up spending many weekends with close-by cousins, aunts and uncles. He was loved by so

many of his cousins throughout his life, and Steve and Ginny maintained a life-long loving, supportive and close relationship. Steve attended Evander Childs High School and following graduation from Columbia University with a Pharmacy degree in 1962, Steve earned a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Chicago in 1967. Steve conducted his Postdoctoral work at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and returned to the U.S. in 1970 to begin his distinguished, 35 year career as a federal civil servant and Senior Executive with the National Institutes of Health in Maryland.

Steve is recognized globally as an innovator and leader in advancing the research field of neuroscience and developed programs for data sharing among scientists worldwide. Most notably, Steve led the establishment of the Neuroscience program at the National Institute of Mental Health, NIH, in the 1970s, and created the Human Brain Project in the 1990s (HBP), including developing data sharing platforms for neuroscience known as Neuroinformatics. The HBP was recognized by President Obama as the framework for international collaboration and data sharing to facilitate a greater understanding of the brain (BRAIN Initiative). After retiring from the federal government, Steve continued to work in the field of neuroscience, serving in a number of positions over the past two decades with private and non-profit organizations. Up until very recently, Steve continued to consult at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine as a Grant Coach and career mentor in the Departments of Anesthesiology, Neurology and Psychiatry, and also at Louisiana State University.

Steve loved his work, but his first love was his family - especially his children and grandchildren. Steve was an amazing father and champion for his children throughout their life. He loved his grandchildren with all his heart and regularly did special things for and with each of them to show them just how

wonderful and unique they were to him. Steve loved to take the grandkids snorkeling on the beaches of Florida, to Broadway plays and museums in New York City, and to explore the great culture surrounding them in the Washington DC area, where they all grew up. He was the proudest guy in the stands at their baseball games, cheerleading competitions, live performances and robotics competitions. He was, by far, the coolest Pa. Steve was also a super cool brother and uncle. He was his sister Ginny's confidant, and always made special time for her daughters, Felicia and Heather Wasserman, offering his nieces support, advice and love throughout their lives and his. Steve and his former wife, Diane, raised their family in Maryland and his close extended family of first cousins, their children and grandchildren shared significant life celebrations, holidays and milestones together for decades. The Grunleys, Guggenheim/Levy/Shalowitz families and the Amsterdams have always held a special place in Steve's heart.

Steve is survived by his grown children, Karin Koslow (Tom Gleason) and Jamie Koslow; his grandchildren Rye and Siena Gleason, and Jackson and Maxie Koslow; his sister, Virginia Wasserman; his partner, Nancy Levin; and his former spouse for 46 years, Diane Koslow. Steve lived a busy and joyful life in Florida, with Nancy and her wonderful loving family, in remission from stage 4 lung cancer.

The family will hold a private service on Thursday, April 29th and is sitting shiva via Zoom with friends and family Thursday, Saturday and Monday evenings. If you are a friend of Steve's and would like to join for shiva, email jamiekoslow71@gmail.com.

In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations to the Ginny and Kenneth Grunley Fund for Lung Cancer Research at the Yale Cancer Center, PO Box

7611, New Haven, CT 06519-0611. In the memo portion of the check, write: "In Honor of S. Koslow: Grunley Fund." Your donation will help further research to treat the specific genetic type of cancer that afflicted both Steve Koslow and Ginny Grunley.

Tribute Wall



“ *Stephen Hugh Koslow*

January 29, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *After the service, we toasted Steve's life at the surf, tossing beautiful peach rose petals into the sea. May he forever be fly fishing and riding the waves...❤️*



Karin Koslow - May 03, 2021 at 05:24 PM

KK

“ From Steve's partner and soulmate, Nancy Levin:

Much has been said by family and friends who had the privilege of knowing Steve for many years—some of them all their lives.

My time with him was a short one, but it is quality rather than quantity that matters. From the day we met, we felt a connection to each other that lasted throughout the years. Except for the first month, the rest of our time together was somewhat full of challenges and unknowns. But we tackled them together and enjoyed each day and what it brought to us.

He was my friend, my teacher, my advisor. We shared the love of conversation, theatre, museums, movies, good restaurants, and cooking. I learned much from him-- about his studies, work, and travels. From me, among other things, he learned of my love for Israel and our traditions, and of the experience of having to flee Communism and start anew in another country.

I enjoyed meeting his loving family and his many wonderful friends from Philly, Texas, New York, and Florida. We even spent time with a former colleague when we were in Budapest.

He engaged young and not so young people in conversation. He was always interested and interesting. He was well dressed, sophisticated, and a gentleman.

Most of all, we laughed much together. Every day was a gift that we truly appreciated.

He leaves a big void in my life and I will always love him.

May he rest in peace.

Karin Koslow - May 03, 2021 at 05:08 PM

“ From Steve's sister, Virginia Wasserman, and former spouse, Diane Koslow

Virginia spoke from the heart, and concluded with, "Steve, my brother, will always be in my heart."

From Diane: I met Steve when I was 16 and he was 18. We were in college and each of us lived with our parents and commuted to classes at separate schools. We married 3 years later and moved to Chicago for Steve to attend graduate school. Together, we learned how to navigate adult life.

There is a saying that it's not the number of breaths you breathe, but the moments that take your breath away. Steve and I shared many of those moments, and he was a terrific tour guide. We shared attending the Nobel Prize ceremony when we lived in Sweden, trekking through the Annapurna mountain range in Nepal, landing by helicopter on a glacier in Alaska, and exploring all the world's best restaurants and sites.

When we decided to divorce, we did so amicably, writing our own divorce documents. Karin was almost 40 and Jamie was 37, and Steve and I joked about buying one of those books on how to tell the children: "Mommy and Daddy love you very much, and this is not your fault. Now you'll have two houses to live in..." you know the book!

And so we closed that chapter in our book, and began to write new ones. Steve was a man of principle and courage. He was always firm about what he believed in and gave the best advice - whether you wanted it or not. Most importantly, Steve had an eternal love for our family. We agreed without question that our children and grandchildren were a constant source of pride and wonder.

Steve and I once shared a deep love, and after divorce, our history continued as we participated together in family holidays, extended

family special events, and the many performances and activities that Rye, Siena, Jackson and Maxie participated in. I will miss him very much.

Karin Koslow - May 03, 2021 at 05:06 PM

KK

“ Grandchildren:

Rye Koslow Gleason: spoke from the heart and concluded that Pa will be “forever a part of my life.”

Siena Koslow Gleason: Pa had a heart bigger than anyone I ever knew. It made him an amazing friend, mentor, husband, brother, father and most of all it made him the best Grandpa. He was always planning adventures for us, supporting us, looking out for us and thinking of us. He went out of his way to do little things for us, knowing how happy it would make us. Whether it was picking up our favorite candles and stocking his apartment with them, or getting us tickets to our favorite movie, Pa was an expert at making us smile. He made sure we knew how much he loved us everyday. His memory and his big heart lives on in all of the lives he has changed. We will all miss him.

Jackson Koslow: Pa was smart, funny, witty and above all he was loving. He loved his family and I know he loved Maxie and me. We never lived in the same city, nonetheless I cherished all the times we spent with him and have memories that will last a lifetime. My favorite memory is when we went snorkeling here in Florida. Pa taught me how to properly swim in my snorkeling gear and I will always remember that fun day. Pa will always be with me and I love him so much.

Maxie Koslow: Pa was the person who was always smiling. Always up and doing things. He was always making people laugh and loved to see people smile because of him. Everytime I had a frown on my face, I remember he would always tell me to smile for him and that would make him smile! He was always up and about - pretty impressive for an 80 year old if I do say so myself. I wish I got to know him better because he always lived in a different state from me, but I'm really glad I still got to know him. I'll miss him a lot.

Karin Koslow - May 03, 2021 at 05:04 PM

“ From Karin: My Dad was an amazing father to me and my brother, Jamie. He loved - and teased - my husband, Tom, as if he were his own. My Dad was ALWAYS there for me, my brother, my husband and our children. ALWAYS there for his sister, cousins, nieces and nephews. Ready to help my friends and his friends, whenever they asked.

My Dad was:

Involved and interested in everything we were involved and interested in

An advocate and champion for us throughout our lives

Loving and supportive

And he always pushed us hard to do better than our best

My Dad taught me to ride a bike, body surf and drive a car. He took us sledding during awesome Maryland snow storms in the '70s and '80s, and Jamie and I were his regular ski buddies during most every Winter Brain Conference out west, during our teenage years.

My friends spent lots of time with my parents at our house in Gaithersburg. My Dad loved to catch up with them on what was going on in their lives and of course, to tease them - sometimes relentlessly - about one thing or another.

My Dad was a spectacular grandfather.

The first grandkid gets the honor of naming their grandparents and Rye, who you may have known as Noah, named him "Pa." Pa helped raise Rye in the early years, when he and my Mom were Rye's primary care-takers 3 days a week, allowing me to return to work after taking the first 6 months off to be a new mom at home. This experience laid the foundation for a very special connection between Rye and my Dad. My Dad helped shape who Rye is today, as a young adult, and Pa couldn't have been more proud. My dad and Rye shared a passion for knowledge - searching for answers to things we don't yet understand. Pa and Rye would engage in

rigorous and sometimes heated debates about climate change, socialism and other big ideas. They respected each other's views and sometimes they even changed one another's perspective - although I admit that was rare!

My Dad was Siena's biggest fan - he scheduled many visits back to Maryland to watch her perform in various plays, and he lived for their regular FaceTime visits after he moved to Florida. Siena and my dad's special relationship was solidified during the 18 months he lived with us after leaving NY and waiting for his new home in Florida to be renovated. Siena and my Dad would banter and laugh about the quirks of regular daily living, and if the moment was right, Siena's "Pa" humor would flash and she could dish it right back to him. They were always teaching each other new things.

What I have learned from his extended family, friends and colleagues is that my Dad (aka "Koz") was brilliant and kind, both serious and funny. He could be intimidating, yet also sweet and thoughtful. He was a leader in the field of neuroscience and remained a mentor to the next generation of scientists and innovators up until his death.

Up until his very last days on this earth, he had "fire in his eyes" as he pushed through pain and did his physical therapy exercises, so that he could get out of the hospital quickly, and be back home, to recover in comfort, and get back to his strong, independent self.

That was the plan. This, was not the plan.

I have no regrets - my Dad was a constant in my life. I told him regularly how much I loved him and how thankful I was that he was my Dad, and how wonderful of a Pa he was to my kids, and father to my husband.

I hope my Dad also left this earth with no regrets. He lived an incredibly interesting, meaningful and full life. He left us knowing he was loved fiercely by his family and his soulmate, Nancy.

Dad - you will live forever in my heart and I will miss you forever.

Karin oslow - May 03, 2021 at 04:59 PM

“ We are sharing some of the remarks here, from the memorial service we had for Steve on April 29, 2021. From Jamie Koslow, Steve's son:

Dad,

I am not ready to say goodbye yet. It's too soon. It wasn't your time. You had many more days and years left to spend with us. There are so many things I still want to say to you. To tell you how much I love you - even though I told you all the time - it could never fully capture exactly just how much. To tell you what an amazing father you are would be an understatement. To tell you what an amazing person you are would be another. You never stopped teaching me, inspiring me, counseling me. You made me a better person in every way. Not a day goes by where I don't stop and think - how would you handle this dad?

You were without a doubt the greatest and most dedicated father. You gave Karin and me the greatest childhood - being there every step of the way, from waking us to take us to our 5am swim practices in the cold of winter, to our summer vacations in Ocean City with our Fractured Prune and Thrasher French Fry rituals and burying us up to our heads in the sand, to our annual ski trips out west, our many birthday celebrations - the list goes on, and on - you filled our lives with memories that will last forever. Thank you for that.

You spread these memories even further with your grandchildren, Jackson, Maxie, Rye and Siena. You supported them in their passions, from baseball and cheer, to acting and robotics. You were always there to make them laugh, and also inspired them just like you did for your own kids. You were a great Pa.

You left a big mark in this world. Not only for your family, but also in your career, and with all your friends and colleagues. I have been fortunate to meet some of these people and I have never been

prouder to be your son than when I hear them tell me how special you are. It warms my heart to know they got to see the person who I always knew was special.

You had a presence that was larger than life. A laugh that could fill a room. A smile that was warm and genuine. Eyes that sparkled. Wit that was sharp as a knife. And always always always.... wisdom to impart. I will miss our talks. You were my go to call. I looked forward to sharing my accomplishments with you, and yes of course, hearing your advice. I will miss it all.

It's so incredibly hard to believe you are not here in this room with us. I can still hear your voice, I can still see the smile in your eyes. I can still feel your hugs. I am not ready to stop feeling them. I am not ready to say goodbye just yet so I am going to carry you in my heart for a little while longer.

I love you.

Jamie Koslow - May 03, 2021 at 04:52 PM

RL

“*When I first heard that Steve passed, I thought, "Steve was a great guy!". For several years, Steve served as an advisor, scientific board member and CEO of our biotech company. Steve was a genuine scientist who spoke truth to power. He once called me arrogant, and he was probably right. I was privileged to have known Steve and don't regret one minute of our many interactions.*

Richard G. Lanzara - May 02, 2021 at 12:08 PM

KK

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Karin Koslow - May 02, 2021 at 07:02 AM

EA

“ I met Steve five and a half years ago when he bought an apartment in our south Florida condominium 'Aquarius' and immediately run for the Board of Directors. I was very impressed with his resume and his achievements in the neuroscience world. I also wondered how this still working and consulting scientist can dedicate his time to the condominium issues.



Then when he moved in after the apartment remodeling, I often met him in the parking garage since our parking spots were next to each other. He always looked energetic, slim, and polished. He was a nobleman and was always very polite. Occasionally, he had been seen with his lady partner. Due to the busy schedule and having another residence in Miami, he never had time to make friends in our condominium. Once I watched him parking like a pro.

Yesterday his car was positioned so wrong that I could not get in my vehicle from the passenger side. I told my husband that it could not be Steve's parking.

That evening it was announced on the billboard that Steve is no longer with us. We've been in shock, it was hard to believe. Our condolences to his beautiful family. He will always be in our memory.

Eugenia Aulov-Volchek, neighbor.

Eugenia Aulov-Volchek - May 02, 2021 at 01:52 AM

SB

“ For the Koslow clan:

I met Steve through my late husband, Barry Jacobs, a neuroscientist. In the 1980s, Barry was in DC monthly, where his work intersected with Steve's at the NIH. This was the incubator for their friendship. Their camaraderie, which predated me by about fifteen years, was apparent to me immediately. I was struck by the easy rapport they had, the light-hearted bantering and endless discussions about the brain and neuroscience. The Princeton professor and "lab rat" as Steve jokingly described Barry, and the notable NIH leader created a terrific two-person team in the art of living.

When Steve took a job in NY and moved into a condo that was coincidentally on the same Upper W. Side block as our apt., this conspired to bring us even closer. There was no one else we enjoyed being with more than Steve, who shared our escapades around Manhattan and Brooklyn where we'd walk for miles, explore neighborhoods, discover hidden eateries, visit art galleries and see quirky off-Broadway productions. These guys were like two mischievous kids who enthusiasm for each other's company and shared love of neuroscience cemented a decades-long friendship.

When a disastrous stroke befell Barry in 2015, Steve was there for him, his continuous support a great comfort. Yet another testament to Steve's unwavering patience, compassion and gently nature. During these past difficult times, Steve and I would usually talk monthly. I will miss you and those phone calls dearly. Thank you, Steve, for being such a wonderful part of our lives.

Susyn ("Suzie") Berger

Susyn Berger - April 28, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Stephen Hugh Koslow.*



April 27, 2021 at 11:31 PM



“ *Steve, well, I call him Kos, was like a father to me. He was responsible for my rising through the ranks from postdoc to tenured Associate Professor. He was always kind, willing to help, hard and critical because he wanted me to do well. He is a friend, a true scientist, and most of all a very caring person. I didn't have a dad growing up but I found one every step of the way and Steve was my scientific and surrogate dad. Steve, I love you, and I miss you. You have given me so much as I am forever indebted to you.*

The last time he and I met was 1 year ago. We went out to dinner. It was a wonderful time. Here is to you my dear friend/dad/mentor/coach/cheerleader!!!



Kevin Lin - April 27, 2021 at 05:52 PM