Syracuse University, Class of 1969

“Tear-gassed and water-hosed by the local police and fire department while we cheered the buses heading to Mobile Alabama. Flower Power... some of us still have it!!!”

Posted by Guenther on Facebook

Guenther led his life with elevated expectations for himself, and for those around him. This standard brought a higher focus to all who worked with him, bringing out their best. He was a teacher and mentor throughout his life. Many of his university students and former employees had contacted him in recent years to thank him for the experience that they received from him.

Guenther always held strong opinions, and those who knew him best also knew that his sometimes out-of-the-box ideas would likely be proved sound in the long run. He had a clever way of planting idea seeds that would sprout in others. He took great joy whenever someone else would present a concept, as their own, that he had surreptitiously and deliberately sowed into the ear of some oblivious proxy. He was a planner, organizer and visionary, and organizations that were fortunate enough to become the focus of his passion always benefited from his skills.

Speaking of passions, Guenther was enthusiastic about almost anything that grew. He loved gardens, greenhouses, forests, and even tiny planters on rooftops. He was ardent about social justice, committed to philanthropy, and generous with his time and energy to charities, floral industry organizations, and neighborhood associations. He delighted in all the fine arts, from theatre to dance; live music performance to contemporary and classical artwork. He knew even the most obscure baseball references. His computer program code-writing skill was so well-developed that the company that provided the POS system for Bouquets provided Guenther with the key to allow him to tweak the program; something that they had never allowed any other customer, but did because they wanted to capture the improvements he conceived.

Guenther was once asked in an interview how he wanted to be remembered. Without a second thought, he replied, “I just want to be remembered as a nice guy and a good neighbor. If everyone acted that way in this world, we’d all be better off.”

Thank you for joining me today, to honor a man who leaves behind a legacy of kindness, wisdom, generosity and authenticity. And even a little mischievousness. Remember that twinkle in his eye, and you will have captured the essence of Guenther’s character. — BJ Dyer

Memorial contributions in Guenther’s honor may be directed to the Colorado Symphony, www.ColoradoSymphony.org; or to the Denver Art Museum, c/o FOPAS 454 Jackson St., Denver CO 80206.

SPECIAL THANKS to John Tobey, event coordination; Steve Cruz, graphic design; Stacie and Debbie Crecelius, memorial video production; Bobbi Walker, reception venue; Keja Chiuovish and Denver Art Museum, ceremony venue; Jerry & Mary Kern and Colorado Symphony Orchestra, live music performance; Three Tomatoes Catering and Occasions Catering, sundries; Kari Smith and Bouquets staff, floral beauty; and to Cricket Smith for a lifetime of love, loyalty, and laughter.