

*Celebrating the life of*

# Herbert Shore

November 18, 1939 - February 12, 2024



# *Program*

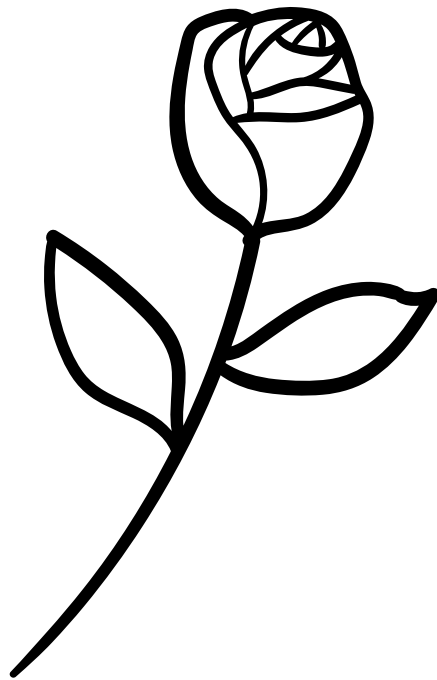
Welcome - Mark Sherman

Personal tributes

Solidarity songs

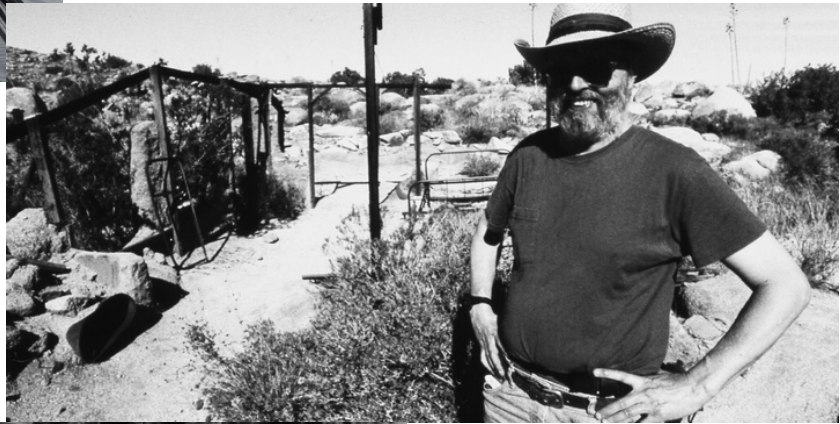
Lunch

Mariachi canciones



# *Acknowledgements*

On behalf of Virginia Franco and all of Herb's friends,  
thank you for your love, support and solidarity.



# *Memories of Herb*

I knew Herb and Virginia for decades, I have been to their home dozens of times for DSA dinner meetings, coalition meetings and organizing campaigns. They certainly held DSA together for most of that time...when it was difficult to bring youth into the org locally. Herb and Virginia were both part of SD-SUN, the Socialist Unity Network, a six-year effort to form a socialist left-front initiated by the local Freedom Road district (now Liberation Road) and composed of the DSA, CCDS (Committees of Correspondence for Socialism and Democracy), Solidarity socialist organization, and the ISO-SD and the Communist Party SD for a short while.

I am saddened by Herb's passing. But it is not often that one gets to see what they saw...their organization grow nationally and locally tenfold after Bernie's campaign led tens of thousands to join DSA and other movements to support socialist organizing and oppose the Trump neo-Confederates. Locally the DSA rests on the foundations of what Herb and Virginia built in San Diego.

*Martin Eder*  
*Activist San Diego*

I met Herb during the merger of NAM and DSOC, probably in 1981, and worked with Herb and Virginia through DSA and at SDSU, mainly in the 80's. I was delighted to see in recent years that he and Virginia had kept the local DSA alive until it could thrive in its current state. He was highly committed and reliable in his work, and most importantly, he had a fantastic positive, friendly, and supportive demeanor which made him a delight to work with. He will be remembered and appreciated by many.

*Tom Packard*

I remember from early on in my time with DSA, well before I was on staff, Herb and Virginia's great organizing work building cross-border solidarity around the Maquiladoras after NAFTA. And they were wonderful hosts when I visited the San Diego chapter after I became national director and was in more of an organizing role than in later years. Herb was a very committed and down-to-earth comrade.

*Maria Svart*  
*DSA National Director, 2012-2024*

I became friends with Herb through NAM, the New American Movement, back in 1981. I bought a new CPM computer and found out Herb was into computers. We'd hang out at talk computers at night. Herb would go to SDSU and teach during the day, go to political meetings in the evening, and then around 11pm, would go into his study where he had his computer, schematics, an oscilloscope, and would be "tinkering" with his computer. He's install faster cpus and chips and update the operating system. Herb always looked for ways to customize his computers, find the latest FORTRAN compiler, and work on computational physics problems. We'd spend hours together with Herb mostly explaining what he was doing over a Pilsner Urquel, his favorite beer. Herb split his day into 3 roughly equal parts. Physics, politics, and electronics. He was dedicated to all of these endeavors and tirelessly enjoyed his waking hours pursuing his hobbies. He was highly efficient. He didn't spend a lot of time gardening, painting, cooking, vacuuming. He spent every moment doing what he enjoyed most. Always with a smile and always with the hope of making the world a more humane, caring, and educated place. In his last years, he fought his Parkinson's everyday to continue working on physics, politics, and electronics. It was his wish to be able to die working on a political or physical problem. I was with him on his last day and he continued to do research until he passed.

*Mark Sherman*

Herb and Virginia were early and long-term supporters of Environmental Health Coalition for decades. Herb engaged with EHC on our border environmental justice and fair trade campaigns as he integrated those values into the fight for democracy. Herb will be missed as a strong voice for human rights

*Diane Takvorian*  
*Environmental Health Coalition*

Herb was so welcoming and knowledgeable when I attended my first DSA meeting in he and Virginia's home. He really wanted the younger generation to take the baton for DSA. He and Virginia made you feel like family. He will be missed.

*Christian Adams*

Herb (and Virginia) were mainstays of the Left's presence, influence, and actions supporting progressive coalition-building and organizing in San Diego. Compañero Herb - ¡Presentel! ¡Si se puede!

*Thérèse I. Cauchon*

Herb introduced me to Democratic Socialism over 30 years ago and I'm forever grateful for his patience and friendship. Herb was an enthusiast of the outdoors (believe it or not) and loved to backpack the wilderness. We backpacked the Grand Canyon and parks in Utah. I was able to learn a bit of physics while passing the nights in a tent. Such a generous friend. He is missed.

*Kenn Colcasure*

Before the days of Google Docs and AirTable, Herb created probably the first online registration form for what is now called the Young Democratic Socialists of America. Sometimes, I would need changes but was told not to ask for too much since Herb was doing a lot of the digital work that could only be done manually back then. Real unsung hero.

*David Duhalde*  
*Chair, DSA Fund*

Together with Virginia Franco, Herb was the heart and soul of the DSA and progressive voice of San Diego. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to work with both of them. His enthusiasm and devotion to socialist values must be carried on by all of us to honor his passing.

*Marge Kealey*

I sought out DSA after Trump's election and after trying other activist groups, frustrated by their refusals to heed all the lessons of liberal failures. Herb and Virginia brought optimism and hope every day of my experience with them, talking about what a lot of us now call the "DSA difference" with pride and sheer joy that they could share it with younger generations. Herb's optimism wasn't naive - he understood that what had hurt the left before was always a threat - but in those years, the best possibilities looked a lot like our praxis. Herb inspired me to persevere, no matter what, and I know many others would say the same.

*Shauna McKenna*

I met Herb in 1978 as a member of the San Diego NAM chapter when I taught at San Diego State University for a year. I appreciated his thoughtful comments as we discussed NAM activities and as our professor's union challenged the university's budget priorities. We met again a few years ago when we served together on the board of Democratic Socialists of America Fund, DSA's, where he offered his usual sound advice. Herb and Virginia welcomed my husband, Bill Barclay, and me when we visited Southern California, most recently a year ago. He was eager to talk politics. His thoughts were cogent, though the Parkinson's made it difficult to understand him.

*Peg Strobel*

Herb Shore was a nerd's nerd, and a leftist's leftist. I mean those in the best sense of both words, and for Herb they were mutually reinforcing. I have never met a person more dedicated to truth, evidence, and logical discussion, and but who also had a deep love for equality and socialism. That is, Herb was one of the last surviving "Enlightenment" intellectuals. His version of socialism was based in the belief that there was a truth to be reached through science and evidence. When current intellectual fashions turned to post-modernist relativism, Herb maintained his enlightenment belief that truth was the only secure basis of any future good society. Years ago he and I were on a panel in which we debated two conservative libertarians. Herb demolished their worship of market fundamentalism cloaked in scientific verbiage. He would listen to them, smile, stutter a little, and then take them apart. When they retreated to abstract hypotheses of island-based economies of barter, Herb confronted them with the mathematical realities of today's market inequalities. When they invoked claims of "freedom of choice", he hit them with the emptiness of those choices when a single family, the Walmart heirs, owned more wealth than 40% of the entire country. I remember hearing him speak of growing up in the left-wing socialist culture of New York as well as the equally left-wing culture of the UC Berkeley physics department of the 1960's when he was a graduate student.

He and Virginia at first seemed such an odd couple. He was a New York Jewish intellectual with old left roots in the labor movement and academia, she was a Latina from a poor background whose politics were based in the emotional confrontation with racism and the need for social justice. But those very different backgrounds and commitments were the opposite sides of the same coin: He filled their home with ideas and intellectual debate, and she filled it with people and the gut level commitment to the causes they both supported. Some of my fondest memories are of the countless leftist discussions that took place in their home. One in particular sticks out for me. It was a study group organized around Piketty's book *Capital in the 21st Century*. There was food, beer, and a conversation that went on for hours. I was impressed with how Herb effortlessly explained the math that Piketty used to support his argument. But even more impressive to me was that when I looked over his shoulder he had what must have been the only copy of that 685 page book in all of San Diego County in which every page had underlining's and margin notes. For Herb, that kind of reading was his version of an aerobic sport. I will always miss that time in their home and the exposure to Herb's hunger for ideas and socialism.

*Gregg Robinson  
Board Member, District 1  
San Diego County Board of Education*

I am so sad to hear Herb Shore has died. He was a brilliant physicist, a veteran of the Free Speech Movement, DSA stalwart, and one of the kindest, gentlest human beings ever. He and his partner Virginia anchored San Diego DSA organizing, especially on free trade issues and immigrant rights, in the late 1990s-2000s.

*Michele Rossi*

Herb was so welcoming and knowledgeable when I attended my first DSA meeting in he and Virginia's home. He really wanted the younger generation to take the baton for DSA. He and Virginia made you feel like family. He will be missed.

*Christian Adams*

Herb was a DSA legend. When I first joined, almost 10 years ago, the chapter was small enough that our general meetings were held in Herb and Virginia's living room. He was a member of NAM in the 70s before it became DSA in the 80s. Served on the NPC many times. I'm grateful that Herb got to witness the chapter explode from the dozen or less who met for decades in his living room to the hundreds meeting in a local union hall. He did so much to keep the torch lit and pass it when new members flooded into the organization. Rest in power.

*Max Cotterill*

I remember Herb and Virginia best from the NAM days-when conventions might have a few hundred people and the organization's membership was in the low thousands. I remember having some discussions with Herb about physics- we were among the few in NAM who had a science background. He was a kind and gentle man dedicated to the cause of social justice.

*Chris Riddiough*  
*Vice Chair, DSA Fund*

It had been a long time since I had seen Herb and Virginia, but my memories will always be of his warmth and inclusive to all who came to our movement. His example is that of one who inherited our tradition, carried and cultivated it for a lifetime and handed that tradition to those who came and will come after him. Solidarity comrade.

*Dave Rathke*

Herb's generosity and kindness, his deep knowledge of and commitment to movement building, and his persistence, will always be examples that instruct and inspire us in the struggle for justice

*Amelia Simpson.*



Herb designed and developed the Excel spreadsheet implementing a Borda count that was used by DSA for tallying votes in NPC elections over many National Conventions. He was always, I believe, one of the volunteers tabulating those votes (an arduous task, I know, because I've done it, too). When I think of Herb, I mostly think of his infectious smile. I don't think I ever heard him say an unkind word about anybody. He and Virginia had a favorite hole-in-the-wall restaurant in Chinatown - I don't remember the name or the street, but I think it was upstairs over a more "popular" one. We used to all retire there, sometimes, after NPC meetings. Herb and Virginia loved the soup dumplings. (I used to like them, too, until I discovered the "soup" is actually melted pork gelatin, which kind of grossed me out.) That restaurant is where I discovered bok choy and black mushrooms, which is still a favorite dish. Another thing I remember about Herb is a conversation in which he attempted (less than 100% successfully) to help me understand some facts about quantum mechanics. He suggested I learn a little more linear algebra.

*Dave Knuttunen*

Herb was the longest-dedicated socialist I knew. Even to the end, he was willing to sacrifice and inspire others to build a better world.

*Jacob Van Dehy*

We have fond memories of Herb when we were members of New American Movement, Herb in the San Diego chapter and us in the LA chapter. Herb had great personal integrity coupled with sharp intelligence and sound political judgment. All that was held together with a warm and approachable personality, a sense of humor, and humility. He will be greatly missed but his decades of good work and the young activists he mentored and inspired will be his lasting legacy.

*Steve Tarzynski & Kathie Sheldon*

If only we had more Herb Shores in this world! Not only was he deeply committed to social justice issues, but was also a highly intelligent, thoughtful and kind humanitarian. Herb was a very dear friend to many of us, and we will miss him greatly.

*Kathryn Parker*

I'm really sad to hear about Herb's passing. During my time in the chapter, Herb was really the heart and soul of the Electoral Working Group, and really kept that aspect of the work alive through his incredibly friendly personality as well as his perseverance even in dark times. Herb was truly a rare person, who had done and seen it all, and yet remained unjaded and with an incredible generosity of spirit. I know that I and the SD chapter will miss him dearly, and hopefully we can all continue on with the struggle in his memory.

*Matt Howland*