

ALLAN GREEN – A REMEMBRANCE, by Al Nagler

I'm greatly saddened to note the recent passing of Allan Green, a dear friend to many of us and a guiding light of the Rockland Astronomy Club.

Allan's relentless enthusiasm and selfless encouragement to young and old was legendary. He opened his heart and home to anyone privileged to know him, as those club members lucky enough to attend his July 4<sup>th</sup> (Flag Raising Parties), Labor Day (Flag Lowering Parties) and New Years Parties know all too well. And, who else would have built a house upstate in Windham, New York, that served as a year-round virtual open house observatory for club members.

Allan was a celebrated commercial cinematographer, portrait photographer, as well as a great music lover and astronomy booster, arranging several Astronomy Days at the local Mall. He was always encouraging to me as I was developing my business. And I'm glad to say he ignored my forebodings when he originated the idea of NEAF, and named it the Northeast Astronomy Forum. He spent years developing it, and supporting Don Urban's efforts in making it what it is today.

Safari Telescopes, dobsonians built of fiberglass to his design, was one of his endeavors. Safari is a great name for a man always on a joyous life's quest for adventure. Whether Allan was doing lighting for Antrim Playhouse productions, setting up a tour to Ayers Rock in Australia, being a key member of Bob Slone's club expedition to Hawaii for the 1991 solar eclipse, or making parties at Stellafane, he seemed always on "Safari"- combining dedication and fun and always making things happen. His supreme self-confidence without ego made him a leader everyone could love and respect. He was amazingly tolerant of human foibles too.

He was also lucky, at one of his New Years parties, to have met Julia, the love of his life and a true soul mate. After marrying, they moved to Albuquerque some years ago, where Allan transported his lifestyle to new friends and admirers. (I saw this first hand when visiting them a few years ago.) Together they published a cultural events magazine, while Julia started to sing in opera and Allan took up architectural photography.

His dear friends will miss him, but his love and generous spirit will always be an inspiration for he always had an upbeat smile, and a twinkle in his eye, (Anyone remember Vilma, our speaker from NASA?)

Allan, your loss is deeply felt, but at least those who knew you were unanimously richer for it. Now go on and show the angels how to really run a star party.