



D. Robert Fenninger

June 26, 2018

D. Robert Fenninger, 64, Lancaster's unofficial Master of Hospitality, died Tuesday, June 26, 2018 after a brief illness. He was born in Chester County to the late Benjamin Fenninger & Dorothy (Criswell) Fenninger. A man of equal parts style and substance, Bob was hospitable to his core, widely regarded as one Lancaster's most gracious and engaged citizens. Honest work in service to others was his life-blood.

Bob studied Art History and English, earning a B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and an M.A. from The University of Pennsylvania. Professionally, he pursued dual interests in Hospitality and Education. He managed The Log Cabin Restaurant for over 20 years, developing a loyal following among discerning diners. He also devoted a decade to teaching Art History at Pennsylvania College of Art and Design. In the last ten years, Bob owned and operated FENZ, a boutique restaurant that was the first of its kind in Lancaster, and it embodied Bob's trademark "chic not snobby" style. He was active in civic engagement and served on the Board of Directors for the Demuth Foundation, Pennsylvania Restaurant Association, Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, and Lancaster History, among many others.

True to his "onward and upward" nature, Bob was industrious to the end, actively consulting on numerous projects. He was a man constantly doing, solving, creating -- his mental wheels never stopped spinning. He was whip-

smart and fiercely independent. Yet, he savored the richness of life, too. He loved good wine and a good laugh; he enjoyed gardening and hosting intimate dinners at home. His knowledge of art, literature, and classical musical was encyclopedic. He was energized by meaningful work and stimulating conversation.

A Requiem Mass with The Reverend David W. Peck as celebrant will be held on Monday, July 9, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 119 N. Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. In celebrating Bob's life, attendees should refrain from wearing black. Ever the consummate host, Bob's own words were: "a sanctuary outfitted in a sea of blue attire would be quite chic."

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Bob's memory to the Barshinger Cancer Institute's Patient Support Fund. It was a cause he championed for years in his consulting work. Having experienced first-hand the superior care provided there, he would be grateful if his friends supported that noble cause. Checks should be made payable to LG Health Foundation; please indicate that funds are earmarked for Cancer Patient Support Fund in memory of Bob Fenninger. Mail to: LG Health Foundation, 609 N. Cherry St., Lanc., PA 17602.

Previous Events

Service

JUL 9. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. James Episcopal Church
119 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ *D. Robert Fenninger*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I just learned of Bob's passing and send my utmost condolences and sympathies. I was first working with Bob on the Pa convention and visitor's bureau. I knew him at the Log Cabin for many years as well. Then was involved with Bob at the Marriott Hotel as it was developed and operating. Bob was always knowledgeable and creative and most helpful. Our daughter Dawn McCabe also knew Bob well and was a business user of Bob's restaurant before her life was taken by cancer. We will all miss him.*
Frank and Pat McCabe (retired president of High Hotels Ltd.)

Frank McCabe - October 30, 2018 at 08:43 PM



“ *Bob and I worked together at the Swamp Fox restaurant beginning winter/spring 1972. Bob, a student at F&M at the time, was the premier server, intelligent, Knowledgeable and sophisticated. Memorable parties at his parents home, when they of course were away, and a long wonderful relationship wherever Bob commanded his food industries locations. The Log Cabin thrived under Bob's management and his Crown Jewel, Fenz. Charming, direct and professional are traits we all can know and respect in remembering Bob. Our thoughts and hearts are with all of his family and friends in this time of a wonderful man passing way too young....*

Jeff LeFevre - July 16, 2018 at 09:36 AM

VC

“ Bob... A CLASS ACT!!!! I grew up getting to know him when our family dined at the Log Cabin. Many of our fondest memories were created there over the years. Bob took the time to really get to know us. He focused his attention on every last detail and was always so very gracious, genuine and kind. His smile was absolutely infectious. He never forgot a face and always stopped what he was doing to welcome and catch up when we crossed paths. He will be sorely missed. What a great loss to his family, friends and our community. Prayers and thoughts are with all during this very difficult time.

With Deepest Sympathies,

Victoria Carl/Enright family

victoria Carl - July 02, 2018 at 11:47 AM

 Denise
Campbell

“ *With sadness and great respect--Gunter Backhaus, Management & Staff at The Loft Restaurant*

Denise Campbell - July 01, 2018 at 09:48 PM

KM

“ *So many fond memories of Bob not only from Parkesburg, but stopping in Characters Pub to have a bite to eat on his way home after his long days at Fenz. Always great catching up on life and the business. You will be missed by anyone's life that you touched.*
Karen McCarter

Karen McCarter - June 28, 2018 at 01:22 PM



“ I knew Bob in high school and graduated with him in 1972, I am so sorry to hear of his passing. *Barbara Eckman Hall*

Barbara Hall - June 28, 2018 at 09:37 AM

KB

“ A beautiful soul and forever gracious host! You will be dearly missed. *RIP Bob.*

Kathy Bromer - June 28, 2018 at 08:35 AM

DW

“ Bob and I were such great friends during high school. I was his date for the Senior Prom and we played opposite each other in "Little Mary Sunshine" in high school. I have so many fond memories of him and his family. His father was delightful as well!!! He will be greatly missed! *Deb Wolfe*

Deborah Wolfe - June 28, 2018 at 08:33 AM

PK

*Bob was always there to assist for happy celebrations like rehearsal dinners and birthdays , but also to help us through rough times. His calm, cool manner was contagious. His smile welcomed you when you entered the door. He is missed.
The Keys Family*

Peggy Keys - July 09, 2018 at 07:06 AM

MK

“ Bob was a great guy and a wonderful host. We enjoyed his ready smile and impeccable service at Windows of Lancaster, the Log Cabin, and the Fenz. He will be missed my many who got to know him after so many years in Lancaster. Rest in peace, Robert. *Peg & Jeff Kay*

Margaret Kay - June 28, 2018 at 07:47 AM

RG

Bob was the best in the business, caring for each person.

Ron Good - June 28, 2018 at 10:37 AM

LF

I first met Bob when we were in our 20's and both worked as waiters at the Log Cabin. We've kept in contact throughout the years. He has always been a gracious, polite and thoughtful man. I am so very glad to have known him.

Bob was truly a class act.

Les Fern

Les Fern - June 28, 2018 at 01:14 PM

AG

So sorry to hear of Bob's passing. We were in the OHS class of '72; fond memories of being in high school plays with him.

Ann Hilton Gabel - June 28, 2018 at 03:23 PM

JH

Oh, Bob, so sorry to hear of your passing! Yes, fond memories also of OHS class of '72.

Joan Powers Stevenson Hanby - June 28, 2018 at 09:27 PM

KM

I am very sorry to hear of Dr. Fenninger's passing. He was an excellent art history teacher at PSA&D, and brought architecture alive for me. I have wonderful memories of him chaperoning our college trip to Italy in 1993.

Kristina Mitchell

Kristina Mitchell - March 03, 2019 at 05:47 PM