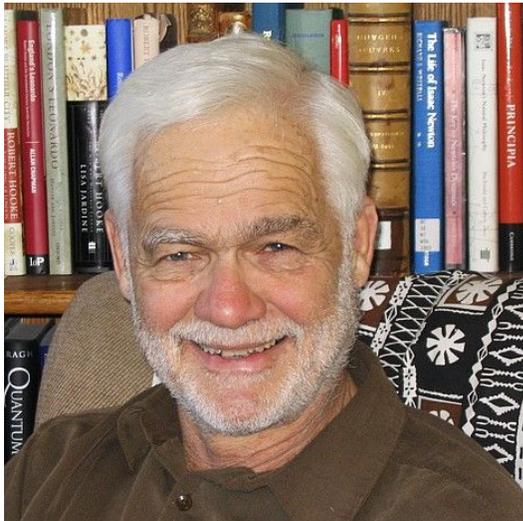


# Michael Nauenberg 1934-2019

*Emeritus Professor of Physics*



Michael Nauenberg, Emeritus Professor of Physics, passed away at home in Santa Cruz on July 22nd, 2019. Nauenberg was born in Berlin, Germany on December 19th, 1934. He emigrated with his parents and siblings to Barranquilla, Colombia in 1939 to escape persecution during World War II. When he moved to the United States, he studied physics as an undergraduate student at MIT, and went on to obtain his PhD at Cornell University under the mentorship of the legendary Hans Bethe. After a postdoc at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, Michael became an Assistant Professor at Columbia University. There he wrote one of the classic papers in Quantum Field Theory with T.D. Lee and K.

Kinoshita proving a textbook result known as the Kinoshita-Lee-Nauenberg Theorem.

Nauenberg came to UC Santa Cruz in 1996 as one of the founding members of the UCSC faculty. He played a crucial role in the development of the Physics Department in its early days, hiring a number of its members and helping to establish the Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics (SCIPP). He encouraged the activities of a group of young researchers developing what has become known as Chaos Theory, and more generally pushed the Department towards excellence in novel and established fields. Among his other contributions to the campus, Nauenberg was instrumental in developing both Stevenson and Crown Colleges, he served as the Chair of the Physics Department from 1970-1972 and 1983-1985, and played an important role initiating the graduate physics program.

When Nauenberg formally retired in 1994, he saw it as an opportunity to continue his influential research in physics and pursue his long-standing passion for the history of science, focusing on the work of Isaac Newton, Robert Hooke, and others. In 2013, he was honored with the Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award in recognition of his academic achievements as an emeritus. Nauenberg also remained actively engaged in the campus as part of his deep commitment to advance academic excellence at UCSC. He served as the Emeriti Faculty President in 1998 and 2015 and followed developments in the physics department and university at large throughout his life.

He is survived by his wife, Josette Nauenberg, his siblings, Eva Faillace, Uriel Nauenberg, and Lucrecia Sachs, his children, Peter Nauenberg, Maria Neumann, Tanya Nauenberg-Blakeslee, Sander Nauenberg, and Saskia Nauenberg Dunkell, and his many beloved grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, [donations](#) to the Michael Nauenberg History of Science Lecture are welcome.

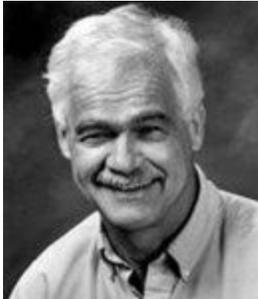
*See next page*

# Michael Nauenberg

December 19, 1934 - July 22, 2019

Santa Cruz

--*Santa Cruz Sentinel* 8/3/2019



Michael Nauenberg only truly retired on the morning of July 22nd, when he passed away at home with his love of 50 years, Josette Nauenberg, by his side. Michael was born to a Jewish family in Berlin on December 19th, 1934 and escaped to Colombia, South America on the last boat out of Germany during World War II. He went on to study physics at MIT and Cornell, teach at Columbia and Stanford, and eventually join UCSC as a founding faculty member in 1966.

Michael was a world-renowned scholar who made substantial contributions to particle physics, theoretical physics, and the history of science. He was deeply committed to advancing academic excellence at UCSC and cherished interdisciplinary interactions with scholars across campus. In addition to his work in Santa Cruz, he was the deputy director at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at UC Santa Barbara for two years, and he worked at several research institutes abroad, in Geneva (CERN), France, the Netherlands, and Germany. His colleagues will remember him as a larger than life figure who was passionate about his scholarship and stood up for the things he believed in.

His family will always remember his unwavering love and support, his ability to explain Newton's ideas on a paper napkin, and his generosity with his special collection of chocolates (amongst many other things). He thoroughly enjoyed Santa Cruz's natural beauty and could often be found riding his bike up to campus or hiking in the redwood forest around his office while working out a physics problem in his head.

Michael is survived by his wife, Josette Nauenberg, his siblings, Eva Faillace, Uriel Nauenberg, and Lucrecia Sachs, his children, Peter Nauenberg, Maria Neumann, Tanya Nauenberg-Blakeslee, Sander Nauenberg, and Saskia Nauenberg Dunkell, and his many beloved grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, [donations](#) to the UCSC Emeriti Association for an annual Michael Nauenberg History of Science Lecture are welcome.