

Alan Ronald Kindler 1942–2015

Alan Kindler died on 12 June following a long battle with cancer. He leaves his beloved wife, Rosalind, his two sons, Damian and Nicholas, their wives, Jill and Helen, his sister, Mary-Lou, and four grandchildren, Hannah, Noah, Sarah, and Phoebe.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, Alan graduated from Scotch College and then Melbourne University Medical School. Alan and Rosalind were married in 1965 and then spent three years in Rochester, New York, while Alan completed his residency in psychiatry. In 1971, Alan and Ros moved to Toronto along with several other Australian colleagues and with George Awad, an esteemed analytic colleague.

The priorities in Alan's life were his family and psychoanalysis. Alan enjoyed a long and successful career as a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, first at St. Michael's Hospital, and later in private practice, where he was devoted to his patients. He was a member of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and was also a supervising and training analyst at the Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis, in addition to teaching and supervising in all the other psychoanalytic and psychotherapy training programs in Toronto. Alan, along with Howard Bacal, first introduced self psychology to Toronto. Over the last forty-five years, self psychology began as a radical departure from classical theory and ego psychology. However, Alan persisted and courageously forged new and challenging paths. Alan was active internationally within the self psychology community, speaking and teaching frequently, sometimes together with Rosalind. He also developed a video presentation to teach empathy to trainees, a project that is being pursued to completion by Rosalind Kindler, along with Shelley Doctors, Dan Perlitz, and Nicholas Kindler.

Alan was athletic and fit for many years, as he jogged and rode his bicycle. And he was a lover of music, playing clarinet, drums, guitar, ukulele, banjo, and harmonica, while sometimes accompanying Ros's jazz vocals. As a couple, they also learned to tap dance together.

Alan was a great friend and empathic listener to colleagues and patients alike. He was fun and very funny. Some of my fondest memories of Alan are of him throwing his head back with gales of laughter in response to some joke or spoof. Alan and his family and friends had good times together.

We cherished our time with Alan. He will be missed by so many of us.

Judith Levene