

WarrenFest

A Celebration of Warren Liang's Life

Saturday, Sept. 24th, 2016

2-3:00 pm • Reception: 3-5:00 pm

(Warren loved to
take photos from
airplane windows.
Here is another
one of them.)



If you would like to submit a story
or photo to this document, it is not too late.
I am now creating a digital version to be viewed online.
Send your stories or photos to
Fred@martensart.com, anytime.

Fred Martens, 513.559.9987
2334 Upland Place
Cincinnati, OH 45206



program

Somewhere Out There Horner, Mann & Weil
SqueezePlay Accordion Band

Remarks Chrissy Hutzel

Early Warren Warrick Liang

Tears in Heaven Eric Clapton
Intro: Tina Fukumoto, performed by Kenny Fukumoto

Warren's Work Lori Walter, MD

Over the Rainbow Arlen & Harburg
SqueezePlay Accordion Band

Warren & Fred Sandy Lingo

Their Song
SqueezePlay Accordion Band

The Uplands Chrissy Hutzel

LifeCenter Christie R. Watts

Squeezeplay Years Chrissy Hutzel

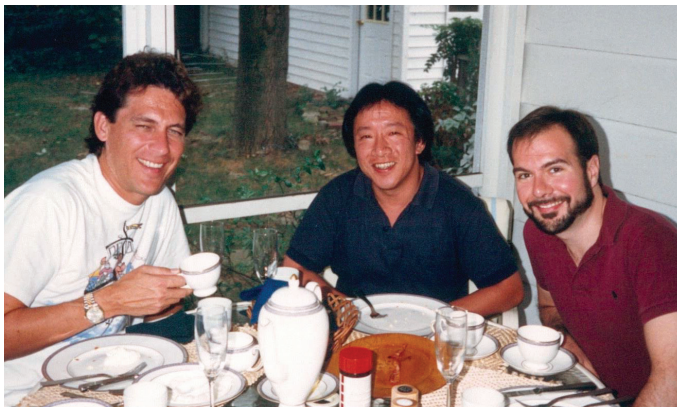
Glasgow, Scotland on Sunday May 22, 2016

Warren Stories



"This is the first time I saw Warren play. He was so intense — and then so happy after the song was finished."

- Charles Wilhelm, referring to the photo he took, above



Randy Johnson visiting Warren and Fred at their College Hill house back porch in the '90s.



Mary Johnson, Joe and Adria Navarro, me and Warren, and Randy Johnson, in a '90s trip to LA, California.

Photos submitted by Randy Johnson.

"What I remember most about Warren is his very warm easy going smile. Two years ago I had a continued cough for which the docs were trying to find the cause.

"They 'accidentally' discovered that I had a large cancerous tumor on my kidney. After my surgery, (and the cough went away as well), Warren said to me 'Maybe that was your guardian angel tickling your throat'"

"And with that warm way about him, just said 'glad you're okay now' and gave me a big hug.

"Miss you Warren, but glad to believe that you are "okay" as well... in His loving embrace."

Hugs, Diane Hauser (SqueezePlay member)

"As a young and inexperienced occupational therapist in psychiatry, I had the privilege of working with Dr. Liang at University Hospital on 8 East where he was the attending physician training residents.

"I could not have imagined how comfortable it would feel to be on a locked unit with patients in crisis, but this was the "milieu" that Dr. Liang nurtured. **It was calm and secure.** He always made sure everyone was a part of the team, asking for (and listening to) input from each member, carefully crafting the learning environment for everyone, right down to the weekly Servati pastries.

"In his role, he educated all disciplines, not just the residents and I know I am a better therapist because of him. Grateful memories."

- Anne Gibbons

"I had the opportunity to work with Dr. Liang in the mid eighties. He was thoughtful. He was invested in his patients, staff and students. As a student he taught me to work hard, respect others and do it in a quiet manner. Prayers to Dr. Liang and everyone that admired and lived him."

- Mary Logue

"I was shocked to read of Warren's passing. I'm a clinical social worker and worked with Warren on both 8 East and in the Department medical student conferences years ago. **He was a terrific psychiatrist, so well grounded, empathic, and fun to work with!** I've never met you Fred, but feel I know you a little from how often Warren spoke of you. My deepest sympathy."

- Jane Powell



“We will all miss our Citizens on Patrol partner during the past eight years — since 2008. **Warren was such a genteel person with the spirit of an angel and the talent of at least ten people.** I remember meeting him the first time as a new neighbor and he gave me a big hug - the beginning of 25 years of friendship.”

- Jewell Shane, Upland neighbor

“Every time I spoke to Warren, he made me feel that I was important and special. **He made me feel relaxed and like everything was going to be alright.** Another thing that I notice is that Fred and Warren’s relationship is a model to me. I don’t have many models of loving couples, and theirs is one: a couple together many years that wanted to be together, that did fun things together, and helped each other continue to grow.

“Inviting him over to my house to hear a musical rehearsal and seeing how he was so moved by what he heard — even being moved to tears. **Warren was a beautiful, sensitive man.** What a great smile!

“I remember seeing him drive around our neighborhood in the Citizens on Patrol watch car, keeping everyone safe.

“He would nod his head and look cool, while driving along slowly. He was the patriarch of our Upland Place/East Walnut Hills neighborhood. When I would see some kind of suspicious activity by my house, I would text him. Warren would come marching out of his house, fists clenched, chest pumped and watch out for me and my little girl. This looked... well, you know Warren... he wasn’t the biggest guy, so on the surface it was rather silly, but to know him, it was precious, endearing, and made me feel extra protective of and fall even more in love with my neighborhood.”

- Annalisa Pappano, Upland neighbor



Zheng Zhao submitted this photo (above) of her with Warren, performing as “Hippies” (a new word Warren taught her) at a SqueezePlay Accordion Band nursing home performance. Zheng and Warren **always** sat together during rehearsals and performances. They helped each other with music questions, and Warren loved teaching Zheng our American cultural references, found in most all of the music Squeezeplay performs. Their friendship was so strong that Zheng referred to Warren as “her American Dad”, since her dad was so far away. One time Zheng did get to bring her mother and father to the Upland house for a house tour, and chance to meet Warren.

“Warren meant so much to so many people in our Department and at UC, including myself. He was the first person to welcome me to Cincinnati, 20 years ago.

“He immediately got on the phone when I initially called to inquire about the residency program and spent a very long time talking to me about Cincinnati and the Department. I will never forget the time that he spent with me during my initial visit to Cincinnati, including his tour, which convinced me that I might survive moving here from NYC.

“Transferring as a second year, I was initially skeptical, however, **I quickly realized that the training program at UC that Dr. Liang created and directed was far superior to the education I would have received in NY.** I am forever grateful to Dr. Liang for the many opportunities during my residency that he provided and encouraged, but more importantly for his genuine enthusiasm and compassion for launching the careers of hundreds of psychiatrists.

“Only now, 20 years later, do I understand the complexities of being a successful residency director. Warren was such an outstanding residency director, that he made his job look so easy. As I am sure you are aware, there are many people in the Department as well as in the psychiatric community for whom Warren was an inspiration.”

- Melissa T. DelBello, MD, MS,
Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics

“I know you have heard from so many people and see how you both have impacted so many lives — we are all better for it. I keep this picture in my mind — Warren sliding down the marble stairs at Music Hall. —It makes me smile.”

- *Laura Gaines, college friend of Fred*



“We will miss Warren’s magical smile, especially seeing him at the Cincinnati Pride Parade!”

- *Janet and Roger Ach, Janet Photographer*

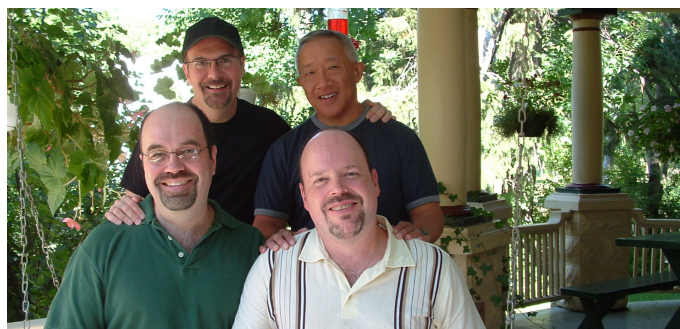


Warren’s mother: Rio Liang, Warren, Warrick, and “Grandma” Johnson. - Photo provided by Warrick Liang.



Christmas in the ‘70s, in Monterey. Brother Warrick, Warren, Mrs. Liang, sister Tina, and her husband Kenny.

- *Photo provided by Warrick Liang.*



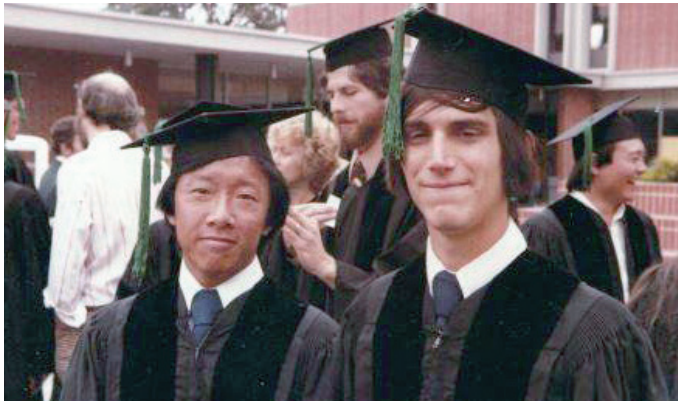
Brett on front left, beside his husband Doug, in front of Fred and Warren, at their favorite guesthouse in Saugauck, MI.

“As a young, openly gay medical student in the 1980s, I was very concerned whether I would be accepted into a psychiatry training program because at that time, many in the field still viewed homosexuality as a mental disorder. The psychiatry program at the University of Cincinnati was still very analytically focused, and that deepened my concern. I was greatly relieved when I learned about Dr. Warren Liang, who was not only an openly gay psychiatrist working in that department but who had also completed training in child and adolescent psychiatry. **I cannot imagine how much harder it was for Warren where there were no other LGBT faculty who were out, but I am tremendously grateful for his courage.** Through my psychiatry rotation in medical school, my residency at UC, and through my decades in private practice, Warren was a consummate teacher and mentor to me. **He had a major role in shaping my professional life.**

“Beyond that, though, Warren and Fred became important friends to me and my husband Douglas. We greatly value our decades of friendship and travel—including spending 24 Labor Day weekends in a row together.

“I will miss Warren deeply and cherish his memory and his gifts in my life.”

- *J. Brett Offenberger, M.D.*



“All who knew Warren will never forget his calm demeanor, his insights into people, upbeat personality and especially his sense of humor.

- *Michael Linsey with Warren at graduation, June 1977*

“I so very well remember Dr. Liang. He was one of first examples to me of how to relate to, assist, and work with the U.C. residents at Central Clinic. **He was an exemplary man.** He will be missed by all who knew him; but, he leaves a legacy of compassion, professionalism, and work ethic to all the residents he trained.”

- *Wanda Mannix*

“Psych was the **last on my list** at the beginning of my third year of med school.... Then came Dr. Liang.”

- *Jonathan Pfeifer*

“Oddly, I was just recently thinking of my interview for residency I had with Dr. Liang. He was so relaxed, which helped me relax, too, **and he was so genuinely interested in really hearing what I had to say.** I felt immediately at ease, if not at home, and it was a powerful experience for a nervous med student to have early on. I am deeply saddened by his passing, but I echo others’ sentiments about the legacy of compassionate care he instilled in everyone he touched.”

- *Justin Hauxwell*

“He told me what I would end up doing in Psychiatry before I knew which direction I would go in....”A really strong General Psychiatrist”. LOL! I often reflect on those words. He was more than a professional mentor. **He was a mentor on how to LIVE.** I miss him. Tears for me...but happiness for him....life well done...

- *Lena Jefferson Wilson*

“When I interviewed for triple board residency, I remember feeling overwhelmed by the UC campus and all the people and buildings I had to visit. Dr. Liang walked me to the window and kindly oriented me to the campus. I also remember getting the best crash course on the history of Cincinnati during that interview. **Dr. Liang’s compassion, kindness, and brilliance came shining through in every subsequent interaction.** Remembering him always leaves me feeling both relaxed and empowered.”

- *Manpreet Kaur*



In NYC, with Warren visiting his Aunt Sheila Szeto (beside him). Cousin Guy Szeto on left, young Emily and her mother, Hazel Szeto, finishing a delicious Chinese meal. About 2006.

“Warren lived half a block down the street from me in Seaside, California when we were in high school. I remember we had English class together when we were seniors at Monterey High School. He was quiet in class but when he did speak up he was funny and made everyone laugh.

“So when Warren said he would manage a website for our graduating class of 1969 reunions I was really grateful. There have been many lovely class reunions at Ron and Rita Chesshires home in Monterey. It was wonderful to see Warren and Fred there and visit and catch up.

“At our 40th reunion at the Hyatt Hotel I remember somebody at the microphone asked Warren if he wanted to speak, and Warren sitting at a back table said, “Nah...” Everyone laughed. I was impressed with how humble and unassuming he was....he could have given a speech but just didn't want the attention.

“It was fun to watch the television show on HGTV about Warren and Fred's Victorian home in Cincinnati that they restored. What a labor of love. **I will always remember Warren and his sweet nature.** My thoughts, sympathies, condolences, and prayers go out to you always, Fred. Cherish the memories.”

- Elizabeth “Betty” Venegas Elsensohn, Seaside, CA

“I'm a colleague of Warren's from ‘Team Shaw,’ (our ABPN board exam team through last year). I gave many oral psychiatric exams with Warren over the years. He may have told you our team was a sort of family—we went around the room and caught up on news from each member whenever we got together... And of course we all saw photos of your place, the band, etc.

“Our team members were crushed to learn of Warren's passing. I feel like I lost a first cousin. I'm sorry we have not had the opportunity to meet—of course Warren, in his quiet way, kept us up to date on your travels together, the music, the remodeling, etc etc. But I always assumed I'd have an opportunity to visit—it just never materialized.

Know that when I think of Warren I feel his warmth.

- Sheldon Benjamin, MD

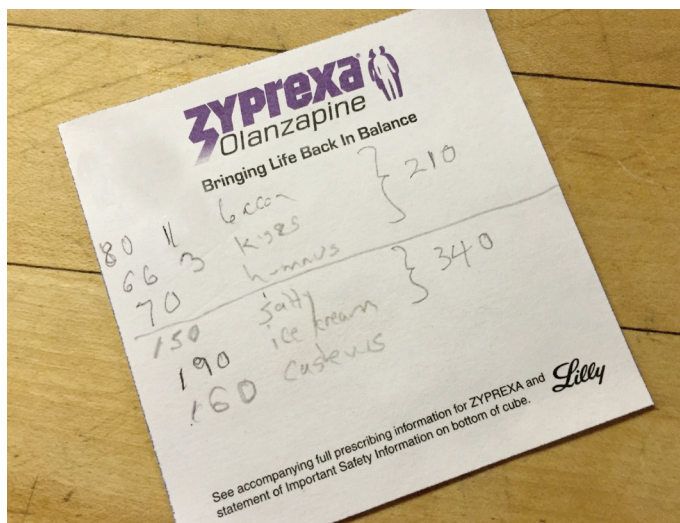
“Warren was such a wonderful, giving person. It will take a long time to realize he is gone. We are so sorry. **He is leaving behind a legacy of love, compassion, and wisdom that will not be easily forgotten.** He touched so many lives in important ways, and to know him was to love him. He was a gift to the world. Your love for each other was, and is, a beautiful thing to witness.”

- Eric Söderlund



“Here are a few of pictures I took when our orchestra performed in Jackson, Wyoming in 2006. There's a fuzzy one on top of the mountain because it was cloudy. One of Warren taking a photo was on the gondola ride to the top of the mountain. These were among the many happy moments that the two of you shared and which will be remembered forever.”

-Ed Choi (and Kieran Daly)



“I recently discovered this post-it note beside Warren's ‘home office’ (the couch in front of the TV in our family room). Yep, it's on Doctor stuff from a drug company. It took me awhile to figure it out. **Maybe you will be quicker to decipher?** Answer on bottom of the next page.” -Fred Martens



Warren in the middle of many brothers and sisters ("foster" or not), their children, spouses, and a parent. Thanksgiving, San Francisco, 2003. - Photo provided by Warrick Liang.

"So sad to hear of Warren's passing. **He was a great mentor and a wonderful, thoughtful, caring physician.** A role model for so many of us residents. I learned so much from him. What a great loss."

- Heidi Meents Erickson

"Warren Liang was one of the loveliest men I've known. He was kind-hearted, fair-minded, life-loving, and **good down to the depths of his heart.** Jodine and I will miss him very much and extend our deepest sympathy to his wonderful husband and life partner, Fred Martens."

-Terry Grundy

"Warren and Fred were my neighbors for many years, and hosted the annual Upland Place Holiday Party, to gather all the neighbors together. **Together they helped drive the revitalization of the Uplands.** Warren was an amazing person."

-David M. Cook

"Warren was simply amazing. I was not enthusiastic about Cincinnati at first, but **knowing that he would guide my psychiatry residency training led me to rank UC as my 1st choice.** He knew exactly what each of his residents needed to succeed. He genuinely cared for us and I am proud to be a member of his last graduating residency class. His love of life & love for Fred were a joy to see. You will be missed dearly Warren. Fred, & the rest of your family, are in my prayers."

-Danielle Johnson

"Dear Warren, We didn't spend a lot of time together but when we did, you and Fred made me feel like we had known each other for a lifetime. I always admired the love and respect that you both shared. **You are one of the kindest people that I know and I will always cherish that from you.** Fred, I am so sorry for your loss. Your tribute to him that you posted speaks of the wonderful relationship that you both had, it is true love. Please know that you and your families are both in my thoughts and prayers."

-Heric Flores

Looking Deeply

"I didn't really know Warren, but I always liked him. He was for me an unseen, reassuring presence. My connection was with Fred. And Fred was stable, creative, efficient and enthusiastic. For me, Warren was woven through Fred's existence. He helped Fred to do the amazing work that he did, and does, and will do."

"Over a span of 25 years, I met Warren three times, twice at parties and once in the driveway. Each time started with an introduction, and a smile and then a warm gaze by him, looking deeply at who was in front of him. It was a comforting look."

"**For me, that look of compassion, and playfulness will live on,** even though I so rarely saw it, for it reminds me of what I experience in the rustling leaves of the trees, the rhythm of the tumbling waves, and the dancing of the clouds."

"Until next time, dear Warren."

- Tom Sparough, Juggler, Educator, Philosopher



1995 Graduation of Warren's Psychiatric residents, at his and Fred's home on Upland Place.

Front row from left to right: Mayra Muniz, Elsa Zayas, Tammy Huber-Wilkins; Back row from left to right: Eduardo Dunayevich, Mark Newman, John Hawkins, Lorie Walter, Helen Holtman and straddling the front and back rows—our fearless leader—a very young looking Warren!

-Lorie Walter

David Guthrie, Fred's cousin, has great memories of Warren "cracking everyone up", to navigate awkward situations. The family was settling in at a brunch for nephew Kyle's wedding. Trying to make order of things, cousin David suggested the couples sit "boy/girl, boy/girl". In Warren's perky manner, he asked, "What about us?" And the crowd loved it. **"His remark cracked everyone up!"**

"I came to know Warren first when he came to our annual Winter Solstice Party with Fred. (It seems like most of my interactions with Warren were in houses packed full of people.)

[Editor's note. Warren and I actually CRASHED the party with an invited friend, and Debbie and her husband Joe were the best, in that they did not throw us out!]

"Through many gatherings, some at Chez Fred & Warren, some at our house, some at charity events, I came to cherish the opportunity to seek Warren out and chat with him. **There was something profoundly gentle and peaceful about him.** Warren radiated a kindness that felt so deep, you just wanted to be around him. I will always remember him for this."

- Debbie Davidson



Warren and Fred in a Mien village, outside of Chiangrai, Thailand, 1986. Photo provided by Warrick Liang.



"Ken and I posted on Facebook we were driving through Palm Springs, CA. Warren picked up on this right away, and a fun impromptu lunch was arranged."— (L to R) Alex McCune, Ken Cunningham, Warren, John Spencer and Fred.

- John Spencer

"Sometimes there are people in our lives with whom we don't have a lot of contact, but our lives are richer for knowing they are there. Warren Liang was one such person for me. I first met him many years ago while he was doing his psych residency and I was a psychology intern working on my PhD. We've maintained contact at an annual lecture at UC each year and the warmth and friendship never wavered. This dahlia is in honor of him and all those who I'm just glad are there even if we don't have much contact."

- Warm regards, Ellen Anon



"I have many fond memories of Dr. Liang. **He was a caring, charismatic residency director who truly cared about his residents and their well-being** — he has become my measure for a mentor, and I did not realize how rare he is.

"He was one of my therapy supervisors, but we also used supervision hours to discuss the goings-on of the residency class and how everyone was doing. He had a gift in teasing out conflicts, personal troubles, and struggles and was always respectful in how he handled them.

"Even after he retired, he agreed to conduct mock oral board examinations for me and my classmates. When he walked on the inpatient psychiatry floors the staff all greeted him like a longtime friend and colleague (even though he had not worked there in years). I hope he enjoyed the scrapbook we put together for his retirement, and I am so honored to have been a part of that celebration.



Pom and Warren at her wedding. Notice her beautifully designed Vietnamese-styled traditional dress, but with Cincinnati bearcat logos!

"I am forever glad you, Fred, and Dr. Liang were able to attend our wedding — to know that he cared about residents not just as psychiatrists-in-training but as people, and that he would celebrate many of our personal milestones and joys.

..... "I live in Walnut Hills, also, and I remember joking with him during one of his diversity lectures. He had put up demographic statistics of Cincinnati, and the racial makeup of the city's neighborhoods. I told him that the 9 Asian people in Walnut Hills must be just him and my large family.

"**Almost every day I would drive by McMillan and feel that there was a sense of comfort, knowing that Dr. Liang was so close.** I always wanted to just stop by and say hello but did not want to intrude, and also figured he was likely out of town, traveling and having a great time with you. I have been so happy to see all of your Facebook pictures and seeing how fully he lived and enjoyed his retirement.

"Please know that I truly love him and am so grateful for everything he did for me and his residents."

- *Much peace to you - Pom Vu*

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An Accordion in a Trash Heap

"I was helping a friend move, and found an accordion in a curbside trash pile down the street from her new home. I guess that's the point of fate... **you don't realize at the time what an impact something seemingly insignificant will have on your life.**

"In June of 2013, this found accordion lead me to SqueezePlay, which also put my life on track to meet Fred and Warren. At what turned out to be the first rehearsal for all three of us, Fred introduced himself and pointed out his partner Warren across the room. Fred and I had an instant connection; I've had more fun playing next to him than I've had in a long time. At our second performance, it came up that I was an officiant for weddings, and Fred made the off-hand comment that maybe someday I'd be able to provide my services for him and Warren.

"When the law banning same-sex marriage was finally struck down, I sent out a celebratory message to Fred and Warren, excited at the possibility of helping them realize their dream of being married. One Tuesday evening at rehearsal shortly thereafter, I received an e-mail from Fred (who wasn't at rehearsal) asking if I was still interested in marrying them — it was so hard to keep a straight face! Warren and I exchanged many happy glances that evening, but I kept my cool since it was going to be a surprise wedding.

"Warren and Fred had such a beautiful relationship. They were so kind and loving toward each other, and their happiness spread whenever they were around me. **When their wedding night finally arrived, I was overcome with how much joy was crammed into their home.** As I was reading Warren's vows to him, Warren stared straight at me while he repeated them back. His eyes were full of tears, but through the tears was a look that I will always remember. I can't even describe it. Joy, exhilaration, relief, wonder, and LOVE, LOVE, LOVE.



Chrissy on left, wedding officiant, at Fred's Birthday Party (aka Surprise Wedding), September 24th, 2015.

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"I broke script, and told Warren to look at Fred. I wanted to Fred to see how deeply Warren loved him. I wanted Fred to see that look that I was seeing. Warren responded to me - "I... I... can't." To still be that in love after so many years together is inspiring. While I'm devastated that we're gathered today for a memorial instead of an anniversary, I am so grateful and honored to have been a part of Fred and Warren's wedding day. Warren was a beautiful soul, and I miss him.

- *With so much love and respect - Chrissy Hutzel*

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“I remember meeting Warren as board members of Cincinnati StopAids (AVOC). We were always early. So one time Warren decided to teach us how to fan dance! The big trick was to keep the fans moving but always still have one fan covering the essentials... Of course we had a lot of fun with this, with an ‘oops’ now and then. Good thing we were all wearing our clothes! After this every time we ran into each other at events a short fan dance followed our greeting!!

- Ken Cunningham

“I interviewed for Warren’s Psychiatry residency program in 1996. Warren knew that my wife had joined me for the trip, and he insisted on picking my wife up from the hotel so that she and I could enjoy local, special Cincinnati ice cream (regrettably, I do not remember the name of the ice cream shop). He also took us by his/your home, where we marveled at the suit of knight’s armor in the foyer. That residency interview stood out from the rest!

“Warren was a very highly regarded psychiatric educator nationally, as I am sure you know.”

With deepest sympathy, - Art Walaszek, M.D.

“I have known Warren since 1978 and like all friendships ours had its shared peculiarities. We loved to quote lines from movies and musicals we both loved and apply them to new situations we found ourselves in, especially lines from *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf* and *Sweeney Todd*.

“We would call each other every year during the Oscars ceremony and exchange withering commentary on the proceedings but also share what we felt was remarkable and poignant. **Warren always was a keen observer of human nature and also had his finger on the pulse of a lot of pop culture.**

“He knew his celebrities. As a matter of fact any time he and Fred had come back from New York there would invariably be

a recitation of the stars and personalities they had encountered/ seen in everyday life. I, having been to NYC, always wondered how anyone could recognize or encounter such people in a teeming city of millions, especially as most tried to go incognito. I never saw these people!!!

“Warren and Fred came to Washington D.C. in January 2009 for Obama’s inauguration ceremony and were staying with me in Alexandria. Fred was playing in a band in the inaugural Parade. a couple of days before the event Warren and I took Metro to the Senate Office Building to pick up his and Fred’s tickets for the inaugural. On the way back I recollect going to National airport for something but do not remember what. Warren and I were walking through one of the long passageways of the airport on an incredibly cold day. Everyone was bundled up head to toe.

“As we were walking Warren turned his head slightly towards me and in a low voice said “Here comes Jim Cantore.” For those who have never watched The Weather Channel, he was their main celebrity meteorologist, always walking into the eye of any storm, hurricanes included.

“I looked up and to my surprise, there he was, all bundled up but clearly recognizable. In fact he was much smaller than one would have expected. I was delighted of course at this celebrity sighting but would never have noticed him had I been by myself.

“And the reason for this is that more than most people, **Warren noticed and observed everything**, which is why he almost always knew intuitively what to expect from most people and how to interact in a positive way. Unless of course the people were being overtly obnoxious — but that’s a story for someone else to tell. Warren I will miss you dearly.

“Thanks for our many years of shared friendship. And I hope you are collecting some good stories about all the dead stars to share with us when we meet again.”

- Tim Burton

“Warren was a very special person. He was loving, outgoing and extremely bright, which he did not flout, which only made him more special.

“He had the knack of making everyone around him feel comfortable and valued.

“I am sure you both felt very lucky and happy to have been with one another for all of those years. Of course, that doesn’t negate the fact that you both deserved many more years together. He was, as we would say in Yiddish, a real “mensch”- a good person.”

- Bruce Lazarus



1991 - Fred, Warren, and Tim Burton, traveling to Maine, Ogunquit, Acadia and New Brunswick, Canada.

Warren First Met Fred -

In a gay men's "rap group" in late fall of 1980 in Cincinnati. "To rap" meant *deep sincere discussion* at the time, and probably evolved to the meaning rap has today in music. Warren was a Psychiatry Resident at the time at the University of Cincinnati.

Warren was a regular member of the group. Fred was not, but had been brought there (begrudgingly) by a friend. Fred anticipated a bunch of "winey old queens", but instead found a **fascinating** group of smart, inquisitive, and thoughtful men. Warren and Fred did not talk to each other on that night.

They finally met in mid-January, 1981. Warren saw Fred at the Badlands bar, recognising him from the rap group. (Warren later would say Fred 'seemed like a nice, smart guy with a good head on his shoulders.') Warren introduced himself to Fred as from that group, and asked Fred out to dinner.

At that moment, Warren seemed to be very shy to Fred (can you believe that?) But Fred also noticed there was something very different about Warren. He seemed very smart, and unusually sincere.

After that mid-January 1981 dinner, there was no question for either of them that each other was — as Mr. Big finally said to Carrie at the end of *Sex in the City* — "the one."

A Legacy of Joy

"Just a few weeks ago this world said good-bye to Warren Liang, MD. Warren's departure was sudden and untimely — just short of his 65th birthday.

"Warren was gentle, intelligent, loving, and oh so playful. He was a walking, talking lesson in joyful living.

"I'll share this one story. Always musical, he joined an accordion band after retirement. Warren dressed in the band uniform of bundhosen german pants, a Tyrolean hat, and had a blast. He fully embraced his 'Inner Oom-pah'. But then, I think he always had... with or without an accordion.

"I snapped this photo of Warren in July. He was demonstrating how to play **Pokemon Go**. Of course, he would know how to play.



To W.

You make me feel like cleaning again;

I think I'm falling in love.

Those pots & pans no longer glare
with looks of neglect
(utter despair!)

I'm feeling fresh,
strip naked clean;
I don't need no washin' machine!

I think I'm really in love.

Gimme that soap!
Lem'me squirt that juice.
My dishes won't mope
when I'm feelin' loose.

Stack-em up—
Pile-em up
Run-em up high.

They're smilin' at me
(they know I won't lie.)

I think I've fallen in love.

- Fred Martens, February 9th, 1981

"Warren has left behind a legacy of joy — to his husband, Fred; to his family; to his students; to his many, many friends.

"I mourn his passing and will cherish his memory always. Thank you, Warren, for the love and joy you brought to so many.

- Linda Hill Hickok, Fred's high school friend



Warren's retirement party, with Warren is surrounded by the wonderful staff he loved working with (and dishing with!) daily.



A happy infant Warren! He found a great chair for talking to his clients, very early on.



"We will all miss Warren and his smiling face. So many happy memories of the two of you over the years. Right now I am picturing the two of you in the French Fop costumes with the wigs from Halloween many years ago!! **Every memory I have of Warren is with a giant smile on his face and I like that.** He was such a pleasant, happy person, but I know you will carry that with you in the difficult days and weeks and months ahead.

- David Dalton

To W.

YOUR SILVER BULLET WASN'T LETHAL
tearing through hair, skin,
parting muscle while purging flesh,
to splinter bone,
finding home in my heart.

My chest convulses with each blow
(head thrown back—
neck thrusts forward, tongue
and gasping mouth—)
arms recoil forward, only to find...

Who dares to pull that trigger!?
Who dares enter my nocturnal realm—

My stage had been set,
lights low
mechanical fog in force
enveloping me with its
heady abandonment
piercing my fierce nostrils
probing my anxious throat
with greedy fingers—
an evil blossom bursting
my breath sacks while
smothering my heart.

... my convulsing arms recover from shock
and land gently
firmly and
healed around you.

- Fred Martens, June 14th, 1981

"I've known Dr Liang for 25 years. He was an amazing role model for all of his students but especially those of us navigating coming out in the midst of the pressures of medical school. He was also so positive about his career choice that it inspired many of us in our darker hours. It is no surprise that he is still living for others even in death."

- David Beck

Eleven Cool Things You Might Not Know About Warren

(From Fred)



1. Both at home, and *even* when we stayed at really fancy hotels, Warren always loved making the bed, every day, *perfectly*.
2. Every night at home Warren loved a 10pm treat, which was a very small serving — in a very small bowl — eaten with a very small spoon — of Graeters ice cream.
3. Warren had amazing self-control. After retirement he would plan his treats for the day, which would include one Hershey's kiss with his coffee (one, not two!), a specific quantity of afternoon cashews, and a measured amount of afternoon hummus.
4. When working at University Hospital, Warren saved by washing and ironing his own white dress shirts. **No one** could iron or starch a white dress shirt better than Warren. When I would make notice of that, he would joke about it being part of his Chinese heritage i.e.: "Me Chinaman, doing laundry."
5. Warren LOVED the news. Every day he would record two or three versions of the 6 o'clock news. He would watch one, and then fast forward through the others, just to see what was the same, or different.
6. He said he was indifferent to traditional sports, but I would find him watching football, being excited about which team won and their scores. Occasionally, he would rewind and show me some special football game moments.

< Flower fun in the Dordogne region of southern France.

7. Ice skating is another sport he loved to watch, but **not exhibition skating**. He loved the excitement of competitive ice-skating, and saved many favorite recorded competitions, and found that excitement lacking in exhibition skating.
8. On other's relationships, Warren said it was interesting that people don't realize it really doesn't matter how someone looks, what sort of job or education they have, or anything else — except for **how they treat you**.
9. As soon as Warren would get up in the morning he would play music through his iPhone. Music in the shower, dressing, making breakfast.. you get the idea. **For the past three years that music was always his recordings of SqueezePlay accordion band.**
10. Warren **loved** helping carry my clarinet and sax cases, going to, or coming from, my music performance. He especially enjoyed when this involved going backstage; he seemed extra proud.
11. In eighth grade Warren's class went to visit the studio of a local photographer. That photographer was a soon-to-be famous **Ansel Adams**.



A Former Student's Kind Words

Warren said after getting this note: "My heart is very full (on my first anniversary of retirement) from an email out-of-the-blue from a med student I worked with for three weeks, 18 years ago with no contact since. **For a teacher, her words are golden.**"

The student's message to Warren follows.

"I'm sure you don't remember me, I am ordinary and you have seen many people over the years

"It seems like there are too few times in life that we are told how important we are to others. I am sending you this email to let you know that I have thought of you often over the past 18 years or so. You shared some thoughts with me about being a physician when I did my psychiatry rotation in medical school. I tucked them away at the time but those have proven to be words of wisdom you bestowed upon me. I knew you were being candid and honest with me so perhaps that's why they remained with me.

"I just wanted to thank you for sharing that wisdom with me so many years ago. It is said that teachers are very important and I just want you to know that in your case that isn't rhetoric and for the brief time I spent with you, you did touch my life.

"What I remember is this. The exact words of the entire conversation I can't recall but we were having a discussion about patients and their family members. In particular I was relating to you my frustration with their lack of compliance and lack of appreciation for the hard work of physicians. I believe I was also frustrated by the hospital staff/administration. I remembered that you listened very intently occasionally nodding in agreement. You then explained to me that you cannot expect people to do what you want them to, you can give them advice or help them to the best of your ability but that ultimately the choice of whether or not they comply or get better is up to them. You helped me realize that I didn't (and don't) have any control over patients, their families or anyone for that matter. You also told me that at the end of the day all you could really hope for was to get compensated for your 'work'. Of course, more true than ever since I certainly do a lot of 'work' I don't get paid for!!!

"It may seem trivial but to me that conversation meant a lot. I have often referred to it in my mind when I'm having difficulty with a patient or their family. And quite frankly I've used it in my personal life too. It was to me a message about letting go. About not holding onto other people's "issues" and about not expecting too much or setting yourself up for disappointment.

"But also what was important was your manner. You as a physician mentor to me a distressed student. I remember how you looked at me, I remember your honesty and your sensitivity to my complaints without "sugar coating" your response. Your style basically and how it made me feel and think. I felt validated. I've used that style with patients and I'll tell you they

appreciate it just as I did. I get many of my referrals from my patients or their families.

"I also want to thank you for demonstrating to me how important psychiatry is in every day life. I see many people with problems that initially seem linked to the GI tract but when I can establish some trusting relationship with them I find their problems run much deeper and I've discovered abuse and neglect among other problems. I know sometimes all someone needs is a compassionate objective third party to listen. Sometimes all they need is validation. You taught me that.

"I hope this wasn't too long for you. I hope you truly enjoy your retirement. Your work lives on even here in Southern Oregon. And I thank you again for your service to the medical profession and your teaching of young impressionable people. **And know that I can't be the only one who feels this way about you.** Heck it took me 18 years to send this..."

- Anonymous



Warren enthusiasm (or Elvis impersonation?) hanging on to the back of a pedicab on a trip he and Fred took (visiting Warrick) in Thailand, about 1989. Taken near Chiangrai.

- Photo provided by Warrick Liang.

"I remember Warren fondly and **was in awe of his intelligence and kindness.** We went to high school together where he was a wonderful leader and student. He was always kind and encouraging to me. I teased him about the accordion and he'd kid me about being a singer. Yes, this is the way he'd want to go and the donation of his organs is something I am not surprised he'd wish. I'm glad you were finally able to get married! I'll miss him and, when the class of '69 gets together next month, we'll raise a glass to his memory. Thank you for being his everything."

- Monica Maddern, Monterey High friend



“We see Fred, Warren, and our friend Mike McKechnie in a picture I took back in the 1980s. My, my, weren’t you all such stud muffins! So young, so thin and with so much hair. Based on the artwork, ceiling paint, and furniture, I am sure this was taken at Jim Edgy and Bob Lee’s house on Dayton Street, in Cincinnati.”

- George Sarofeen

“Words cannot express how saddened I am to hear of this news. I am holding close two recent and very fond memories of Warren. I received a text from him with a nice surprise attached after he saw our opening night of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. **He was always doing kind things like that.**

“Also, at the Cincinnati Musical Theatre picnic he really liked the salted caramel cookies that I brought or he was just being very sweet and asking for seconds. I’m thinking of you, my friend.”

- Catherine Schultz

“So sad to hear about this. Dr. Liang was a gifted teacher, mentor and calming presence to so many of us. **He trained us to be compassionate doctors.** I will always value his important contribution to my education. I also fondly remember his lovely resident parties at his beautiful house. It’s evident that there were so many people who cared for him and whose lives he touched.

- Julie Sara



Warren in front, on right, surrounded by many foster brothers and sisters at a ‘90s Thanksgiving dinner in San Francisco.

- Photo provided by Warrick Liang.



June 2008 - Warren and David, at the psychiatry residents’ party they had for Warren’s retirement.

“My memory of Warren is the seemingly endless sense of calm that emanated from him. My guess is that he did not always feel calm, but he was almost always able to instill a sense of calm in others. Students, residents and colleagues alike would come to Warren with what felt like earth shattering situations. Warren had a gentle way of calming the situation. He would artfully boil these matters down to help find the crux of the problem, and he would gently direct others toward the one or two “next steps” that would lead toward resolution of the problem.

“**I cannot fathom how many lives Warren touched over the course of his life.** His smile and his chuckle will forever be in my heart. He was an amazing doctor, psychiatrist, residency director, mentor and friend. His gentle, playful, kind, and calming spirit will be missed.”

- David Leonard



“I do want to visit one of the wonderful Upland Place house visits we had with you and Warren on New Years’ Eve over many years. We enjoyed many variations of your delightful and fun celebrations, from formal dress, to festive grab bag accessorised attire! They were always terrific and we apparently had much fun. (photo of David and George, above, 2007)

“You and Warren have a special place in my heart as I reflect on the many years we have known you both. I calculate we have known you for 35 years and I still see all of us young and vibrant friends. Where has the time gone?

“We mourn with you the loss of such a great friend as Warren, and send our love to you!”

- David Ferguson



The big brother (Warren) taking care of his little brother, (Warrick).

“In May of 1994 after eight years in the Psychiatry Department at the University of Cincinnati I switched offices with Warren Liang. Though my office had been for four years on the far end of the north hall of the 7th floor of the Medical Sciences Building and his had been on the far end of the west hall of the 7th floor, for me this move was a move down and for Warren a reluctant move up in our Department.



Lawson Wulson and Warren at Warren's retirement party in 2008.

“Warren was then the revered attending on 8 East, the adult inpatient unit where the residents and staff and students and the patients passing through served as the flock to this good shepherd, Dr Liang. Warren led the balanced life that academics dream about, with plenty of teaching and scholarly projects and community service to lighten the load of illness and struggle that filled his University Hospital unit every day. We had known each other by serving together for eight years on the Residency Training Committee, the largest and most important committee in the department at the time, meeting weekly with the other core teaching faculty.

“Warren took the job as program director of the psychiatry residency reluctantly because the residency in 1994 was half the size it had been in the boom years of the 1980s when Warren and Jeff Goldsmith were part of classes of 10-12 residents. Suddenly in 1991, the year after I had taken the job, the number of applications to our program dropped, and again the year after, and again the year after. Our numbers in the Match dropped as fast. On my watch our class size shrank from 12 to 10 to 8 and eventually to 6 per year, the size it has remained since then.

“It took moxie for Warren to move into that job at that time. He appreciated more than most in the department that our local crisis was part of a national problem. He handled me tenderly. **He was generous with his respect, commiserated freely with me about the job, and included me in his collegial brotherly love.** Instead of rivals, he made sure we stayed allies. I will always feel grateful to him. For most of his 14 years as a program director we shared the daily amusements and aggravations, the monthly local meetings, and the annual national AADPRT meetings of psychiatry program directors.

“These character blessings are the same magic that endeared Warren to his many residents, to his colleagues at UC and around the country, to his band members in SqueezePlay, and to his longtime partner and husband Fred. **Our lives would have been rougher without Warren.**”

- Lawson Wulsin



Warren M. Liang, MD

Obituary

Warren Liang, MD, passed away suddenly on August 11th, 2016. He was born in Salinas, CA to Kang Shun Liang and Rio Lin Liang. Warren spent his early life in Redwood Estates, CA along with his brother and many “foster” siblings. All were cared for by “Grandma” and Al Johnson (while their immigrant parents adjusted to living in the US). Warren’s sister later joined the parents and brothers in Monterey, CA. Warren is survived by his husband Fred Martens of Cincinnati, OH; sister Tina (Kenny) Fukumoto of Carmel, CA; brother Warrick Liang of Oakland, CA; many amazing cousins in the New York City area; a huge number of loving “foster” brothers and sisters in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as Cincinnati friends Warren considered his family.

Warren earned a Bachelor of Science in psychology from University of California, Los Angeles in 1973 where he was a President’s Scholar. Subsequently, he attended University of California, Davis School of Medicine, earned recognition as a UC Regent’s Scholar, and graduated from medical school in 1977. Dr. Liang then moved to Cincinnati to begin his residency in general psychiatry.

In 1980, he was selected for the American Psychiatric Association/National Institute of Mental Health Fellowship Program. Thereafter, Dr. Liang returned to Cincinnati to complete a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry in 1982. Upon completing fellowship, Dr. Liang joined the faculty at the University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine where he served until his retirement and appointment as Emeritus Professor in 2008.

In his early career, he worked on the inpatient units and distinguished himself as an expert in the neuropsychiatric aspects of AIDS. Through his clinical work, he established a reputation as an excellent educator working with medical students and residents on his clinical service. He became

involved with resident training in 1982 coordinating the R-2 year for 12 years and quickly developed a reputation as being a compassionate, supportive and insightful mentor.

In 1994, Dr. Liang became the Director of Residency training and, under his leadership, the program was transformed into one of the top residency programs in the country. Dr. Liang worked tirelessly as a teacher, restructured and updated the curriculum, diversified the educational experience for residents and expanded the training opportunities through the inclusion of new training sites that represented the ever changing practice of psychiatry. He also helped to develop one of the nation’s first combined Family Medicine/Psychiatry training programs, as well as our Triple Board training program in Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Dr. Liang is perhaps best remembered by former residents and trainees as the paragon of a humanistic physician-teacher who was not only empathic and caring, but who had a great sense of humor. He was beloved by residents for making trainees feel comfortable and cared for. He always looked for the best way to help trainees understand and help their patients. As residency training director, Dr. Liang continued his clinical practice which focused on the mental health implications of HIV- and AIDS-related disorders. He served as the site director for the University of Cincinnati’s Great Lakes to Tennessee Valley AIDS Education and Training Center from 1996-2001.

Additionally, he was appointed to the APA’s Commission on AIDS in 1997 and served on that committee even after his retirement. Dr. Liang also served as an American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology board examiner and Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Provider until 2015.

After approximately 25 years of commitment to medical education, 13 of which were as program director, and having graduated nearly 275 psychiatrists, Dr. Liang handed over the leadership of the training program in anticipation of his retirement in 2008. In his final year before retirement, he shepherded the new training director to ensure a smooth transition and, after his retirement, he continued to serve the residency as a psychotherapy supervisor and resident examiner.

In 2013, the Department of Psychiatry renamed the student excellence award to the Warren Liang Award for Excellence in Psychiatry in honor of his lifelong commitment to education and patient care.

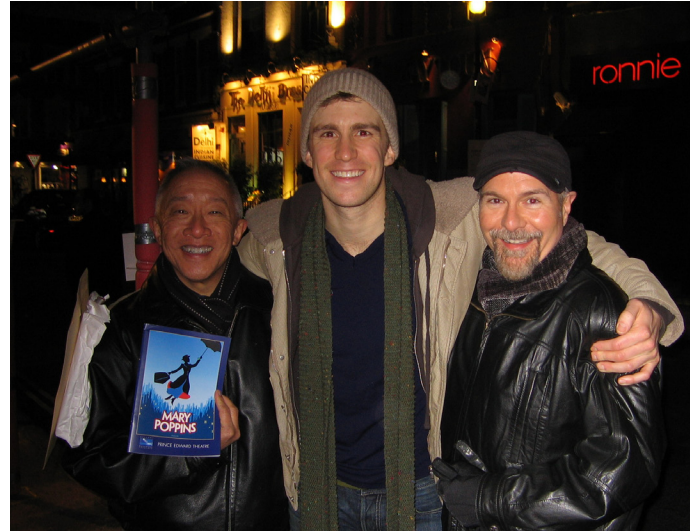
Following retirement from the University of Cincinnati, Warren was able to legally marry his partner, Fred, of 35 years. They spent their time traveling, visiting family and friends, and performing together with SqueezePlay Accordion Band.

Memorial donations can be made at Caracole.org.

Obituary by Melissa Delbello, Jeff Strawn, Suzanne Sampang, Brian Evans and Fred Martens



Warren taking a break from his American Red Cross volunteer work with fellow volunteers in northern Kentuck (March 2012). The storms resulted in 41 tornado-related fatalities, 22 of which occurred in Kentucky. The outbreak was the second deadliest in early March for the U.S. since official records began in 1950.



“**Warren LOVED musical theatre.** Did you know he kept a database of: 1) every musical he saw, and: 2) every person in each show. After seeing a new musical, he could say “OH, so-and-so, we saw 4 years ago when they were an understudy performing in _____ show!”

“In the photo above we were in London. We had some spare time and got tickets to *Mary Poppins*. Looking at the program before the show started we realized the actor playing BERT was a person we knew! **Gavin Creel** (two-time Tony Award Nominee!) Years earlier, Gavin attended a cast party at our house when he was in a national tour (*Fame, the Musical*) that came through Cincinnati. We especially hit it off with him, and surprised we were always warmly remembered by him (when we would see him exiting after his next show!)”

- Fred Martens



Warren's brother Warrick, their mother and father, sister Tina, and Warren at home in Monterey.

From the Early Days: Meetings with Remarkable Men

“Warren and I were in several classes together at Walter Colton Junior High.

“One memorable English class project we worked on with another classmate was reading aloud from a play we could pick. Warren chose for three of us *The Physicists* by Frederich Durrenmatt. The subject matter—which was not very Junior High—involved three brilliant physicists in a sanatorium, all hiding their intelligence as they pose as insane, in order to protect the world from (or steal or use) radical discoveries.

“I would like to express how Warren’s intelligence shined through all he did. On one occasion, he produced a type written footnoted 20-page paper on Existentialism! Warren was actually studying this subject as a 14 or 15 year old. I found that remarkable. We also enjoyed many lunches together later on at Monterey High and that camaraderie was special among the three or four of us who ate together. I believe I was fortunate to meet regularly with young men that became remarkable men.

“I had a mentor who used to discuss the ability of some men to ‘be approachable’. He told me this allowed direct communication and being able to connect and stay in touch. Being approachable allows people to be able to express in an open, reciprocal fashion increasing self understanding. **Warren was very approachable and that may partly explain his choice of professions.**”

- Craig A. Smith



Craig and Warren at their 20-year high school reunion, Monterey, CA.

“What devastating news to hear of the loss of such a wonderful man, Dr Warren. **He was an inspiration in the beginning years for our son, Todd, in the guidance of making my son the fine Doctor he is today.** Fred, you also befriended my son and Brian as they started new beginnings in Cincinnati.

“How you and Dr Warren I will forever be grateful for that friendshipI am so sorry for this tragic loss to you and families and all who were blessed to know Dr. Warren. Know our thoughts and prayers are with you Fred and many of us care about you.”

- Barbara Markman Talumbo

“Very sorry to hear about Warren’s passing. He was a great teacher, mentor and an outstanding residency director. He worked closely with residents of diverse backgrounds and help them adapt. **Above all, a great human being.** He will be very much missed!

- Vikram Shah

“Warren was perhaps the **kindest of souls** I have ever had the gift of knowing.”

- Todd Nelson

“Warren was an amazing man, an exceptional psychiatrist, a talented teacher, an empathic mentor and true colleague. **I’m honored to have trained under him.**”

-Jeff Strawn



Urquhart Castle beside Loch Ness in the Highlands of Scotland. May 27, 2016



1961 - Warren practices his accordion at home in Monterey CA.

Thanks To

Karen and Jerry Kranak: for housing and feeding MANY friends and family who have traveled to Cincinnati ... and for helping Fred get the Upland house ready for all of you to see!

Annalisa Pappano: for help arranging for outdoor chairs for us all to enjoy, at the reception.

Tommy Lawson: for his stage management help, plus his home-made desserts for reception.

Cheryl Eagleson: for using her party experience and great business contacts to procure the main food for the reception.

Diana Martens: for helping arrange the housing for visitors, finding available parking lots for WarrenFest, and especially for keeping a big-sisterly eye on little brother Fred.

F4 (Fourth Friday Freelancer's Forum): for serving as ushers, and to Cynthia Smith for usher coordination.

Edgecliff College Alumni Committee: for bringing food to our reception, as organized by **Kathy Boutiere**.

PJ Carpew and Timothy (of Timothy's Florals): for providing a beautiful orchid centerpiece, and helping get the flowerbeds looking beautiful and weed-free.

Many out-of-town family and friends, some who traveled over 36 hours to be here ("points to you" if you can guess where those travelers are from!)

SqueezePlay Accordion Band: for performing today (after an *exhausting* eight hours of performing last weekend for Oktoberfest), and for helping provide food for the reception, **and** for giving Fred the best emotional support a person could ever wish for.

CELC (Cincinnati Early Learning Center): for being the PERFECT venue, for the help setting this up, and for being *the most thoughtful* neighbors.

Links

Sandy Lingo: www.sandylingo.com

SqueezePlay Accordion Band: www.SqueezeplayMusic.com

Warren and Fred on TV: The (older) HGTV episode on the Upland house from "If Walls Could Talk"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fQqvK5tjI>

Warren's Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBaSrmHQXDnNjaXlGpPD6Mg>

A great version of one of Warren's favorites: Bernstein: *Candide* - 'Make our Garden Grow' - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-DROkQJc_F0

Warren's favorite fortune cookie fortunes, each saved by him, for a number of interesting reasons.

You are an individual interested in forward thrust and the future.

You think that is a secret, but it never has been one.

Lucky #: 01, 07, 20, 29, 33, 40

Your sweetheart or helpmate is true and sincerely devoted.

One day you will become rich and famous.

The next favor you wish for will be granted.

☺ The physician heals, nature makes well. ☺

☺ You will have gold pieces by the bushel. ☺

☺ If you continually give you will continually have. ☺

☺ Keep your plans secret for now. ☺

I know of no way of judging the future but by the past.

Generosity and perfection are your everlasting goals.

Your heart is pure, your mind is clear, and you are devout.

Cleverness is serviceable for everything; it is sufficient for nothing.

Push will get you far, but pull will get you farther.

You are careful, methodical person endowed with but little initiative.

☺ You have a yearning for perfection

Women are perfectly well aware that the more they seem to obey the more they rule.

You will have a large family.

☺ Strong and bitter words indicate a weak cause. ☺

You will win prizes in contests testing your ability to answer questions.

You will soon be placed in a position of authority over other people.

☺ A single sunbeam is enough to drive away shadows.

A MODEST MAN NEVER TALKS OF HIMSELF.

You will soon gain something you have always wanted.

☺ You will always have good luck in your personal affairs. ☺

☺ You are going to have a very comfortable old age. ☺

There is yet time enough for you to take a different path.

Get off to a new start, come out of your shell.

BEHIND AN ABLE MAN, THERE ARE ALWAYS OTHER ABLE MEN.

Fame, riches and romance are yours for the asking.

☺ Hell is paved with good intentions.

The joyfulness of a man prolongeth his days.

Keep in touch with media releases for a big surprise.

You will be deeply loved.