

## TRIBUTE TO SVEN WALNUM

Sven walked among us, strong and vibrant, with a kind and open heart. He was intelligent, dignified, and humorous. As you know, he had a most youthful spirit and attitude, in spite of being almost 89 years of age. He would always tell us his age in years, months, and days. Whenever I spoke with Sven, I felt as if I were interacting with someone 30 years younger. When I told him that, he seemed pleased, appreciating the compliment.

Sven shared with us memories of his personal life, which included time spent in a Nazi concentration camp. Thankfully, Sven survived the camp and went on to realize his dreams. Within this class, which Sven loved SO much, he enthusiastically and humbly shared his creativity and talent, by showing us many of the wonderful photographs he had taken during his professional and private life. He loved teaching us how to pretend to not be interested in taking someone's photograph, then to nonchalantly "CLICK", before quickly and smoothly moving on pretending interest in something else.

I feel blessed to have known Sven Walnum for a couple of years. He embraced life, had vitality, and the willingness to continue learning and being active. This class will never be the same without him. I'm sure you join me in missing our classmate. At least now he has the satisfaction of knowing what is on the other side. On more than one occasion Sven told me that he was not afraid to die. In fact, he said, "I have no beliefs about what happens after we pass away, and am not anxious to go, but I'm not afraid. I look forward to finding out if we truly continue on and if so, what it's like". So now the mystery is solved for Sven, and I can almost hear him joyfully laughing. I believe we are eternal spirits, having a temporary physical experience, and... I believe Sven Walnum is still here, listening to Spencer, watching TED videos with us, and whispering into our ears... "Live, laugh, love, My Friends, and enjoy every minute of it! I did".

Thank you, Sven.

Respectfully,

Teresa Johnson

Consciousness, Science, and the Nature of Being - Classmate