

In Memoriam



Ira Leonard
1938–2006

Ira Leonard, AES life member, died on August 23 in Boston, MA, following a stroke and related complications. He was a longtime member of the Boston Audio Society, and the Acoustical Society of America. Born in 1939 and raised in Boston, Leonard graduated from Brandeis University.

Leonard was retired from the FDA, where he worked with medical devices, especially those with acoustical functions. He was involved with hi-fi since, as he once wrote, the time when people purchased loudspeakers one at a time and GE was a big name. (His first cartridge was a GE variable-reluctance design, mounted in a Webcor changer.)

Leonard loved jazz and classical music, and attended many live performances. He was a feisty, zealous audiophile in the best sense: musical, informed by a solid memory, savvy about science and audio claims, with confident and informed judgments. He loved his Quads, augmented (at one point) by an AR3 woofer. The playback response of that system was exemplary.

As a colleague and friend of Ira's, I can attest to many of his attributes: he was a sweet soul, helpful, eagerly sharing information (regularly mailing or passing around to his friends a wide range of tear-ADsheets of

interest). He was especially lively at BAS meetings after he had been to a trade show. And he stayed this way even after his stroke a few years ago, which had left him significantly impaired on one side.

A veteran BAS officer (most recently treasurer), he was adept at contriving win-win situations. I once sold him a large suite of B&K microphone and test gear, which he loved and could also repair (it had become flaky), and in addition to paying a reasonable price he threw in a nice Carver tuner. He then refurbished the B&K gear and sold some of it to another B&K-loving friend. (For my part, I used the proceeds to acquire an Earthworks microphone.) I think of Ira whenever I use my Carver tuner, which is to say all the time, but now will do so most keenly.

Ira Leonard will be deeply and repeatedly missed by all of us. Donations in his memory may be made to Brandeis University.

David Moran