

## Theodore (Ted) W. Striker, M.D.

(January 31, 1936-October 17, 2021)

Thanks to contributive ideas from Phil Diller, Alter Peerless, and John Cobey.

The many interests of Ted Striker, a member of the Literary Club for eleven years, carried him into such a wide variety of experiences and learning that he became a polymath. Yes, he was a nationally known anesthesiologist who founded and led the outstanding Department of Pediatric Anesthesiology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. There was so much more: kindergarten teacher, gymnast, stage manager, chorister, Board Chair of WGUC, Executive Committee of the Symphony Board, murder mystery addict, musicologist, singer of Brandenburg Concerti, though Bach wrote no singing part here.

He co-parented, with his wife Carol Bamberger Striker, two wonderful kids, Bob and Laura, and remarkable grandsons, Eli and Noah, to grow into the very special people they have become.

*It must also be quietly said, for he never complained, that he endured more medical challenges than any ten men I know. **Ted's level of equanimity was monumental.***

He authored five papers for the LC. The first, with the title: "Gas," designed an *almost* perfect murder. It is at this time that Ted received great credit for finally bringing, in this paper, a crucial, long-awaited literary genre to this Club. He employed marvelously subtle verbiage in this, remarkably his very first Club paper, with oh so memorable phrases such as, "her sheer peignoir..." , etc., etc., etc.

But I digress.

His next paper, "Safe", was, indeed, a history of the safe, which, we learned, appeared in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, but also of the Mosler Safe Co., founded in Cincinnati in 1867. Then came "You Won't Feel a Thing," a history of anesthesia that transfixed his Club audience, eliciting urgent medical questions for Ted that

kept him at the podium for another 15-20 minutes after his presentation. I don't believe that extraordinary audience participation had ever occurred before.

*"The Beast"*, his next contribution, with a worrisome title (given past performance), followed. Happily, the title was a reference to the construction and history of the massive Presidential limousine. Most recently, in 2021, he brought *"Bill and Siggy,"* a brilliant comparison of William James and Sigmund Freud.

Ted Striker was a kind, highly creative visionary, a generous philanthropist, a nationally recognized leader in his field, and a fellow life traveler as my dear friend for 80 years.

Ted Silberstein, 11/21/21