

# Saul Frechtel

Funeral Service

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Saturday, October 5, 2013

**Minister's Introduction (Minister, Graylin Ross)**

We have come together on this glorious afternoon, full of October warmth and light, to honor and celebrate the life of our beloved friend, Saul Frechtel.

Each student, through their being and efforts, raises our School and enriches our lives. Our Teacher has said, "Ascending souls finish their roles very well prepared, having received the presence allotted to them in this lifetime."

Let us stand and remember Saul with our silent presence.

(Silence)

Thank you, please be seated.

We welcome Saul's family: his daughter Mona and her family and Elizabeth's children and their families.

From seeing all the friends and family here, we realize the expansive love and guidance that Saul shared with us for nearly a century.

As Saul returns to the divine source, let us be mindful that we share the same passage; that we, too, are witness to the great mystery of life.

**Music: Michael Parks**

Chopin, "Mazurka in A minor, op. 17, no. 4"

**Reading: Michael Golding**

A warrior is only a man, a humble man. He cannot change the design of his death. But his impeccable spirit which has stored power after tremendous hardships can certainly hold his death for a moment, a moment long enough to let him rejoice for the last time, in recalling his power. We may say that that is a gesture which death has for those who have an impeccable spirit.

(Carlos Casteneda)

**Eulogy for Saul Frechtel from Elizabeth Blake**

Thank you for your presence, support and kind thoughts. As one friend wrote: *We love Saul. We are a halo of love and recognition for him.*

Saul was born in 1922, in the Bronx, New York – a few short years before the Great Depression.

During the years of the Depression, there were many moves to many different ethnic neighborhoods – Italian, Irish, German – in each, Saul had to learn to assert himself while at the same time adapting.

His parents worked long hours and often left Saul in charge of his "baby sister," Harriette, creating a strong bond between the two which continued up until the very end of his life.

From a very young age, Saul knew what he wanted to be when he grew up – an engineer, and that's exactly what he became. He was one of the only ones in his group to continue his education after high school.

After attending the City College of New York, he was drafted into the Army during World War II and served in the Philippines and then in the Army of Occupation in Korea.

We all know many details of Saul's life because he was a raconteur – a story-teller par excellence.

He married his first wife, Gladys and, after working for two years as an inspector for the New York subway system; embarked on the then-courageous move to Miami, Florida – at that time a still fairly undeveloped city, a Southern city, an anti-Semitic city. Despite these denying forces, he worked for one of the country's largest construction companies. Saul, Gladys, their two children – Mona and Jonathan – flourished. For seventeen years, Saul worked million-dollar projects in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Ascension Islands, etc. – gathering knowledge, experiences, and stories.

He viewed his life as a series of wonderful adventures, with everything to learn; leading to stories for anyone who cared to hear and who could gain from his being.

Saul and Gladys moved to Atlanta Georgia. It was there that Gladys joined the School, in 1977. Saul did not, but he always supported her participation. He later said that he always took his time about making important decisions.

During this time in Atlanta, Saul had his first experience of what would become his profession for the rest of his life – working as an expert witness in construction matters.

Moving to San Diego, Saul developed a full-time career as an expert witness.

Even before joining the School, Saul was already serving; when at Karl Werner's invitation, he became the Project Manager for the construction of the Winery. He would travel to Apollo once-a-month to oversee the work. During his first visit, he described Apollo as a *problem-solvers heaven*. It was not until 1983, after Gladys' death, that Saul joined the Fellowship

Many students will remember him for his generous hospitality in San Diego – offering to pick students up at the airport, driving them to Tijuana, playing host to them in his home – making himself available at a moment's notice.

In 1988, Saul and I were married and Saul invited me to join him in the great adventure of his life. Just four months after our wedding, Saul suggested we go to Alaska – to Prudhoe Bay and Barrow. Why did he want to go there? Because the Alaska Pipeline started there and he wanted to see it at its point of origin. This set the tone for many of the travels that were to follow – a wonderful curiosity to see places that had meaning for him.

Saul, at heart, was a family man, and this included not only Mona, her husband Ray and their children Jacob and Chloe, but also to my five children, their spouses, and eight grand-children. He was as at ease with a four-year-old as he was a forty-year-old.

Saul was a city person, but he knew that Apollo should be our home - so in 1994, the move was made.

His support of Robert was unwavering; and in his business essence, Saul understood that Robert was a master at holding together a most complex organization.

Saul did not have any “official” third-line octave; rather his role as a mentor would slowly develop through his willingness to advise, teach, and support students in his favorite setting – the mezzanine at Apollo d'Oro. As he drank his morning coffee, he would recount stories of his life that served as examples of how to live – patience, non-identification, absence of negativity; mixed with sound personal and business ethics and principles. Students would come to him asking for advice about everything from personal growth, business problems, and even relationship issues. He never turned anyone away. Saul could not only talk, he also had a wonderful ability to listen to people. In speaking to him, one truly felt heard. In the words of Ernest Hemingway, his favorite writer: *I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen.*

His last days were spent in much the same way he lived his life – calm, peaceful, not in a rush, simply being who he was. He said, towards the end, *I have been working on keeping this child alive.*

When Robert said to him, *C Influence are taking care of you, are you aware of that?*” Saul responded, *Yes, not so much in the foreground, but certainly there.*

Saul will be missed, yet if we have learned anything from him, it is that his presence, so strong amongst us, grows and continues.

**Music: Justin McKay, Noah Horstock**

Fritz Kreisler, “Liebesleid” (Love’s sorrow)

**Reading: Daniel Goldman**

Walt Whitman, “To You”

Whoever you are! claim your own at any hazard!  
These furies, elements, storms, motions of Nature,  
throes of apparent dissolution - you are he or she who is master or mistress over them,  
The hopples fall from your ankles - you find an unfailing sufficiency;  
Whatever you are proclaims itself;  
Through birth, life, death, burial, the means are provided, nothing is scanted;  
What you are, picks its way.

**Minister’s Conclusion:**

May Saul’s dedication to the inner meaning of life inspire each of our journey’s.

May his appreciation for living life deepen our valuation for the present moment.

May his courage under adversity, his grace under pressure, embolden us to meet life’s challenges.

And let us rest in the surety that he completed his role in perfect health; in presence.

Dear Saul, friend, mentor and witness, we thank thee.

**Candle Ceremony**

Our body is just a shell, our soul will continue.

**Extinguish and light the candles.**

**The urn is lifted and others are motioned to stand. Urn-bearer leads procession.**