

Jack Fink

July 29, 1939 - October 20, 2015



They lived and laughed and loved and left. James Joyce, *Finnegan's Wake*
On the evening of October 20th, amid storm clouds and lightning bolts over Albuquerque, Jack Fink passed away after a short battle with cancer.

Born to Robert and Hildegard Fink in Cincinnati, Ohio, the Lutheran family moved to wartime Albuquerque in November 1944. He, and brothers Bob and Jim, grew up on 57th Street (then named Durango Drive), attended public school, boy scouts, and managed a multitude of newspaper routes. Jack graduated from Albuquerque High in 1957 then went on to attend

Dartmouth College on a Navel ROTC scholarship, which he promptly lost by being the Worst damn naval midshipman they had ever seen (a quote he loved to tell).

He returned to Albuquerque and completed his undergraduate studies in English at the University of New Mexico. In college he joined Pi Kappa Alpha, wrote poetry, and began his lifelong interest in theater by performing a role in *The Taming of the Shrew*. In August of 1961 he began his career, teaching Math and coaching football, in Cuba, NM. Back in Albuquerque by late 62, he was married to Sandra Bloys, teaching at Rio Grande High, and beginning a Masters of English program at UNM.

Masters obtained and seeking to new adventures, the couple signed up for the Peace Corp. Paperwork complete, in early 1963, they were about to embark on the adventure to Liberia. The Draft Board soon made it clear there were other plans in store.

The all-expenses-paid trip to Vietnam was then suddenly canceled when Sandra announced she was pregnant with their first child, Jason. Grateful for a reprieve, but still seeking the exotic, the young family moved to the US territory of Guam for a teaching position.

Jack bought a small motorcycle with sidecar and loved taking his son on rides around the tiny island. His daughter, Lara, was born on Guam and was carried about in a palm frond basket as a any native Guamanian would have been. After 4 years all returned stateside, to Muncie Indiana, to further their respective educations. He completed a PHD in Linguistics at Ball State University (not to be his last degree) and eventually settled into a long-term position at South Georgia College as the Chair of their English Department.

The move into rural southern culture, though perhaps idyllic to the outside observer, was tough on the family. Jack and Sandra divorced soon after the second year.

In 1978, following a prestigious year-long fellowship at the University of Chicago, he returned to Georgia with new wife Carolyn Parnall and her 2 children. The families managed to merge and despite a few hurdles, everyone has developed a closeness that transcends bloodlines.

When the oldest children graduated from High School in 1981, it signaled a time to move on. The road back to Albuquerque seemed obvious, with many family members still residing there. A teaching position at TVI was secured, and eventually, a house in Los Lunas purchased. Many happy years occurred with the move back in New Mexico; kids becoming adults, retirement, and grandchildren.

In the latter part of the 90s, opportunity arose again as Jack accepted a position with Microsoft. Jack and Carli packed up for Seattle, where Lara and granddaughter Cole were also living. Losing Carolyn to cancer in 1997, he rode out low times and those grey Seattle days as well as he could.

Jack later married Patricia Worth, and returned to New Mexico to live in the Los Lunas house once again. He became active in local theater productions, gardening, choir and the First United Methodist Church in Belen, NM.

Jack lived a passionate life. One full of change, intellect, and striving for good - though he admitted he did not always achieve that lofty goal. He was a poet, writer, role model and most of all a teacher! We never thought we would lose Jack, that he would always be with us. Maybe because he always told us he would live 300 years. And somehow, we always believed him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Sandra Bloy; and second wife, Carolyn Parnall. Jack is survived by wife, Patricia Fink, children, Jason Fink (Albuquerque), Lara Fink Ferroni (Portland), Anne Friedenberg Swanson (Dallas/Ft. Worth), Robert Edward Friedenberg (Ashburn, Virginia), and Katy Worth (Albuquerque). Grandchildren include : Cole Parrish Dillingham (Colorado), Zoey Rae Fink (Albuquerque), Bailey Graye Fink (Albuquerque), Jacob David Swanson (Dallas/Ft. Worth), William Robert Swanson (Dallas/Ft. Worth), Taylor Brook Friedenberg (Ashburn, Virginia), Emma Carolyn Friedenberg (Ashburn, Virginia), Robert Ian Friedenberg (Virginia), Adam Matthew Friedenberg (Ashburn, Virginia), Dean James Patrick Vigil (Albuquerque). Services were held on Friday, October 30 at First United Methodist Church and interment was private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to First United Methodist Church general fund, The Mansion Players or the Passion Play. Arrangements are being handled by the caring professionals at the Noblin Funeral Service Belen Chapel, 418 W. Reinken Ave., (505)864-4448.

This obituary/eulogy was written by Jack's son Jason and obtained from the Noblin Funeral Service website.