



Saroop S. Matharu PhD

October 8, 1948 - January 22, 2020

SHIRLEY: Saroop Matharu, age 71 passed away on the 19th January 2020 in his home in Shirley, MA. He was a much loved family man, who had traveled to many countries in the world, eventually living and making his home in each of the three continents of Africa, Europe and North America. He truly will be greatly missed by everyone.

Saroop was born on the 8th October 1948 in Nairobi, Kenya into a family of two elder brothers and a younger sister. He was educated at school in Kenya, and moved to the United Kingdom in 1968 to pursue a career studying Chemistry. In the UK, he started working at Roussel Laboratories Limited, Swindon in 1970, whilst also studying at Oxford Polytechnic between 1970-1972. In 1981 he was awarded a PhD from the City University, London for his work in his specialist area of organic chemistry. He worked at Roussel for 26 years, made many friends and shared many wonderful memories during these years. From 1997 to 2004 he further developed his career with Cascade Biochem Limited in Reading, first as a synthetic organic chemist before working his way up to the position of Senior Project Manager.

In November 2004, he moved to work in Devens, MA as Project Manager and Senior Scientist with Johnson Matthey Pharma Services. He lived his whole life with continued love, passion and enthusiasm for his work. During his career he authored and co-authored in many research papers in journals of

his field of expertise, was involved in numerous patents, and gave many presentations, most notably in Paris, France in 1980. It is testament to his intellect, level of detail, patience, highly skilled technical practical work and meticulous approach to problem solving that he excelled in all aspects of his life and work.

Saroop was a dedicated family man with a wonderful warm personality, and is survived by his wife Grace, their sons Kieran and Jason, daughter in law Celia, and grandsons Hayden and Harrison. He was a true family man at heart, always putting them first. Nothing was ever too much a task for him, and he always found out a working, logical solution for even the most complex of tasks in all areas of life. Saroop and Grace met in the United Kingdom where they had moved to pursue their careers in the 1970's. They married in 1974 in Reading, United Kingdom. They both settled in Cricklade, Wiltshire in 1978 where they still have their family home. Both their sons followed in their fathers footsteps studying and excelling at science subjects at school and university and were both talented musicians, attending St. Paul's Cathedral Choir School in London as choirboys. The arrival of Saroop's grandchildren Hayden and Harrison was a time of great joy and happiness for him. Visiting them in Sydney Australia, October 2018 is a memory that he always remembered and treasured as it was here that he celebrated his 70th birthday.

Saroop had a diverse range interests and hobbies and was a keen squash, badminton player, supporter of Liverpool football club and also enjoyed listening to music of all genres, especially classical music. He spent considerable time pursuing his interests in carpentry, electrics, do-it-yourself maintenance projects around the home, and car mechanics in his earlier years in the UK. Sport was a big part of his life and he enjoyed keeping fit, swimming and playing golf. He also quickly became a supporter of the national sports of football, baseball, basketball, ice hockey, tennis and attended many of their games with great enthusiasm in Boston, MA.

Saroop will also be remembered for being a wonderful cook of all different cuisines, particularly the traditional Indian family recipes which he has preserved down the years. Socializing and friendship was also a great part of his life, and he was always telling of stories about meeting up with friends and attending social events when we used to talk over both sides of the Atlantic over the years when he was living in the US. He also enjoyed his own peaceful times of quiet reflection, and would often spend time listening to music, reading and enjoying long walks on the weekend in Concorde, MA. He made the USA his home for the last 16 years of his life, and spent some of his most happiest and memorable years here.

Dr. Matharu's family will receive family and friends at a visitation period 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Thursday, January 30, 2020 at the Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Rd, (Rte 2A) Ayer.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JAN 30. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Tribute Wall



“ Saroop,

I've only just learnt of your passing after trying to contact you on a number of occasions.

To my very dear friend and colleague who I had the great privilege of having a bench at Roussel in Swindon next to his when I joined the

company in 1995. Saroop taught me so much that I owe him a such gratitude for his time and patience.

We spoke regularly on the phone, more recently via Skype and WhatsApp and I always enjoyed catching up on his news from over the pond.

He will always be a dear friend whom I will deeply miss.

With love and deep respect

Dr Karen Sargood

39 Mayflower Close, Chineham. Hampshire RG24 8XS. UK



Karen Sargood - April 15, 2020 at 07:20 PM

JT

“ I met Saroop, whilst we both worked at Roussel Laboratories, Swindon, Wiltshire, England, way back in the 1970's. Over the years I became close friends with him, his wife Grace, and sons, Kieran and Jason. I remember driving home with him when Jason had just been born. Saroop was a kind, gentle, compassionate man with a good sense of humour. We had many a laugh in the shared car pool, to and from work. Saroop was dedicated to his work, and was known for his meticulous, professional and enthusiastic approach to science. He became a trustworthy friend, and helped me through many of life's challenges right up to the present. I am both saddened and shocked by Saroop's unexpected passing, and send me sincere condolences to his family. I will miss him very much. Thank you Saroop for your friendship and support. R. I. P. my friend.

Julie Titcombe, Cricklade, Wiltshire, England.

Julie Titcombe - February 16, 2020 at 02:16 PM

ET

“ Saroop was a kind, brilliant and helpful man. I always looked forward to opportunities to work with him. He will be greatly missed.

Ed Trauffer - February 03, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Saroop S. Matharu PhD.



January 30, 2020 at 11:13 AM

CB

“ I was so very, very sad to hear of Saroop's passing. As many have noted, the word gentleman springs immediately to mind when thinking of Saroop. When he came to Johnson Matthey in the US, he was so generous with his knowledge, experience, and friendship that he became a favorite of all. He was a mentor to so many. While I have not worked with Saroop for many years, when I would see him from time to time at social events, it was like seeing my oldest friend or neighbor. He never failed to greet everyone with enthusiasm and treat all as equals. Saroop was a real treasure and I hope his family knows how much he will be missed here in the US by all his friends and colleagues. I am so very, very sorry for your loss.

Chris Bell

Chris Bell - January 30, 2020 at 09:51 AM



So true, thanks Chris

Ivan Kovacic - January 30, 2020 at 11:36 AM

NP

A very kind and polite soul left us abruptly recently, creating a void in our hearts. May your memory be eternal Saroop.

Nicholas Paschalides

Nicholas Paschalides - January 30, 2020 at 04:15 PM

EG

“ Saroop, you proved it! Life is unpredictable! You were and will continue to be the best. Meticulous, meticulous, meticulous, patiently meticulous are my memories of you. You were so kind, gentle and genuine. Humanity has lost a great soul. I will forever remember you. Thank you for your years of guiding and being a true friend. I will forever remember the light on your face as you told me about your grand children. Life is not the same without you, but as we agreed, it is unpredictable. May you Rest In Peace. Ewart.

Ewart Grant - January 30, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ Eternal Peace Casket Spray was purchased for the family of Saroop S. Matharu PhD.



January 30, 2020 at 08:45 AM

IK

“ Saroop, thank you very much for our wonderful friendship. Yu have always been very close to me, a very good friend. You were a very polite and wonderful person, a real gentleman. Will miss you, and I already do. You will forever stay in my heart and beautiful memories of my life. Thank you mate Dr. Matharu ! Dr. Kovacik, as you called me... have tears in my eyes...

Ivan Kovacik - January 30, 2020 at 07:58 AM

IS

“ *Ivan and Sue purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White for the family of Saroop S. Matharu PhD.*



Ivan and Sue - January 30, 2020 at 07:56 AM

JM

“ *I will miss Saroop. He was a gentle soul and a fine colleague.*

Joe McGuinness - January 29, 2020 at 07:02 PM



“ *Peaceful Wishes was purchased for the family of Saroop S. Matharu PhD.*



January 29, 2020 at 06:19 PM