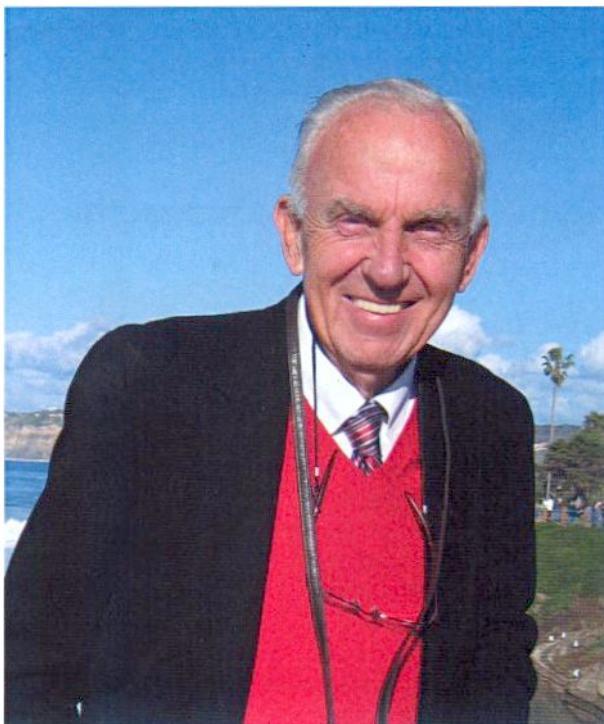


Lars Harry Hellberg
February 23, 1930–February 8, 2011

Memorial Service

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, La Mesa, CA
February 19th, 2011



LARS HELLBERG

February 23, 1930–February 8, 2011

Lars Harry Hellberg was born in Chicago in 1930 to Swedish immigrants.

Nicknamed “High Pockets” for his extraordinary height, Lars was an outstanding student who chose a career in chemistry after an aptitude test showed he would do well in sciences. His choice would lead to 40-plus years of work as an organic chemistry professor in the San Diego region.

His 6-foot, 7-inch frame, sweet demeanor, pop quizzes and ability to write chemical equations with his left hand while erasing the blackboard with his right made him a standout on the San Diego State University campus, where he taught for 36 years.

Lars married Lois Wall in 1960 in Omaha.

The couple had 3 children: Michael, Sara and Daniel. He graduated from Northwestern University in Chicago and completed a Ph.D. in chemistry at UCLA. In 1956 he began teaching at what was then San Diego State College. He retired from State in 1992 but kept a desk in the chemistry building until recently. Lars also taught for 25 years at Centro de Graduados, Instituto Tecnológico, in Tijuana.

He enjoyed travel, collecting Scandinavian stamps, driving VW vans and cross-country skiing. He was a terrific ping-pong player and ice skater. But his greatest joy was the people in his life, from his family, students, faculty and staff in San Diego and Tijuana to his many friends, including his mechanic, pharmacist and the produce clerk at Ralph’s.

Lars continued until his final days to enjoy taking walks, working outside and talking to his cat, Rosie. He died peacefully at home from complications of pneumonia after a brief hospitalization.

His wife of 51 years, 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren survive him.

The family requests memorial donations to ELCA World Hunger or other anti-hunger efforts.