

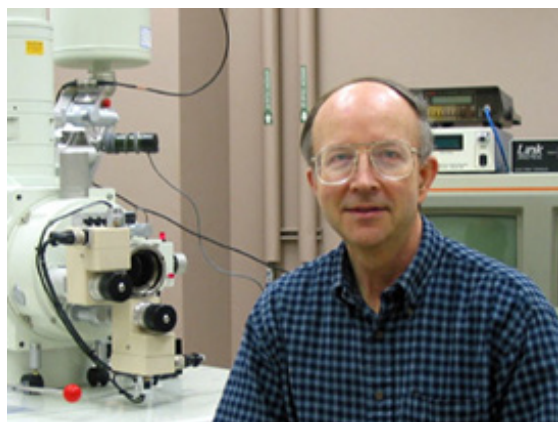
## IN MEMORIAM

In this issue of Showcase, The A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum is sad to announce the passing of two beloved people who were highly supportive of and influential to the Museum, and we dedicate this issue to their honor and memory.

### Former Curator and Emeritus Professor George W. Robinson

Emeritus Professor and former curator George W. Robinson (b. 1946) passed away at his home in upstate New York on April 14, 2024. We celebrate his accomplishments and the privilege of knowing him as a friend and colleague.

Dr. Robinson earned his B.A. degree in geology from S.U.N.Y. Potsdam, NY and in 1979 earned his Ph.D. in mineralogy from Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. His professional experiences include teaching high school earth science, being a private mineral specimen dealer and field collector. At the Canadian Museum of Nature, he served as Curator of the Mineral Sciences Section from 1986 to 1991, and then as Senior Collection Specialist until 1996. Robinson joined Michigan Tech in 1996 as Professor of Mineralogy and as Curator of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum, where he served with great passion and effect with the assistance of his wife Susan until his retirement in 2013.



George at the Scanning Electron Microscope he enjoyed using routinely to study minerals.

Robinson published over 100 papers in both popular and professional journals and authored eight books. His books include *Minerals* (Simon & Schuster, 1994), which set the stage for later developing the new and unique Mineral Formation gallery in the relocated A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum. In 2004 he published the extensively updated and revised *Mineralogy of Michigan*, originally authored by E. W. Heinrich. He served for many years on the Board of Directors of The Mineralogical Record, as a consulting editor, and associate editor of the *Canadian Mineralogist*. Even into retirement he continued writing, collecting, and volunteering at St. Lawrence University.



George at the piano with Joanie Barron during the Miner's Ball in 2009

Robinson's contributions to the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum were innumerable and included improved interpretation and education with a complete reorganization of all the displays while the Museum still resided in the EERC building on Michigan Tech's main campus. Still loved by museum guests is his update to the ever-popular gallery of fluorescent minerals, which includes computer-controlled lighting and educational animation explaining the phenomenon of fluorescence. His care of the collection not only included its strategic growth and conservation, but he also conducted continual research on the collection using electron microscopy and x-ray diffraction techniques. Robinson, his wife and honorary curator Susan, and former executive director Ted Bornhorst, were instrumental in orchestrating and carrying out the monumental task of successfully moving the museum from its 34-year home in the EERC to its current purpose-built home on Sharon Avenue, opening in August 2011.

Among his many honors include the Dr. Charles A. Salotti Earth Science Education Award, awarded in 2001 in recognition of his ability and enthusiasm in sharing his love of mineralogy with students, collectors, and the public. The rare lead chromate mineral georgerobinsonite was named in his honor in 2009, and he received the prestigious Carnegie Mineralogical Award in 2012.

Robinson loved ragtime music and could play the piano by ear. He also greatly enjoyed birdwatching, collecting minerals from all over the world, faceting gemstones, and taking walks with Susan. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues who universally remember him as supremely kind and always generous with his time and knowledge.

## Beverly (Tiger) Salotti

A dedicated Museum supporter, Beverly (Tiger) Salotti née Neufeld passed away in San Diego, California on May 19, 2024. Originally from Bloomfield, Minnesota, Tiger earned her bachelor's degree in education from Luther College in Decora, Iowa. She met her husband Charlie Salotti in Boulder, Colorado where she was teaching at the time. Charlie, who was originally from Laurium, Michigan, was Prof. E. Wm. Heinrich's first Ph.D. student at the University of Michigan. After a fruitful career in industry and teaching, Charlie and Tiger relocated to Chassell, Michigan upon his retirement in 1991, where they both devoted much of their time to supporting the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum. Charlie served as the first trustee of the Edith D. and E. Wm. Heinrich Mineralogical Research Trust, set up by Heinrich for the benefit of the A. E. Seaman Mineral Museum. Following Charlie's passing in 1995, Tiger became the next trustee and continued its support of the museum. As trustee, Tiger was instrumental in helping to make possible the publication of the the *Mineralogy of Michigan* by E. W. Heinrich, revised and updated by George W. Robinson, in 2004.



Tiger at the Tanzanite Ball in 2006.

Tiger was a founding board member of the Seaman Mineral Museum Society, started in 1995. She not only served on the board but was a dedicated volunteer who helped organize the Society's events, and, in the days before widely available color desktop printing, she devoted untold hours to gluing photographs of museum specimens to the elegant invitations for the Society's annual membership drives and fundraiser "mineral ball" galas. True to her passion for education, she also initiated and partnered with the Museum and the Heinrich Trust to sponsor the "Dr. Charles A. Salotti Earth Science Education Award" that was presented for many years to recognize excellence in education in the earth sciences. In addition to minerals, Tiger's interests included gardening, hosting and entertaining family and friends, and enjoying Michigan Tech Huskies sports.

She will be missed by her family and friends but remembered as a kind-hearted and generous person.



Tiger presenting the 2008 Salotti Earth Science Education Award to Gary Richards at the Greenstone Ball gala.