



City of Cambridge

88.

IN CITY COUNCIL

April 14, 1997

COUNCILLOR DAVIS
VICE MAYOR BORN
COUNCILLOR DUEHAY
COUNCILLOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR REEVES
MAYOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR TRIANTAFILLOU

WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened at learning of the death of **George Wald** on April 12, 1997; and

WHEREAS: George was born in New York City on November 18, 1906; he studied zoology at New York University; did graduate work at Columbia University and joined the faculty of Harvard University in 1934, where he conducted research and taught biology for 43 years until he left his position as Higgins Professor of Biology in 1977; and

WHEREAS: George won the Nobel Prize in the Physiology of Medicine in 1967 for his explanation of how vitamin A is critical to sight; and

WHEREAS: Among the other honors he received were the Eli Lilly prize of the American Chemical Society, the Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association and the Proctor Medal of the Association of Research in Ophthalmology; and

WHEREAS: George was a dedicated and talented teacher; he was proud to have lectured in a freshman biology course for 16 years before his retirement; his course "The Nature of Living Things" was exceptionally popular at Harvard; and in 1966 he was named in a Time Magazine cover story as one of the ten best teachers in the country; and

WHEREAS: To George's invaluable contributions as a teacher and researcher must be added his work as a dedicated activist for peace and against nuclear proliferation, imperialism and science for profit; he was one of the nation's first academics to come out against the United State's involvement in Vietnam in a 1969 speech at M.I.T. entitled " A Generation in Search of a Future," which was widely reprinted and translated into several languages; he continued his political activism which he called "biology with a vengeance" and "survival politics" for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS: George's passing will leave a void in the lives of all of his surviving friends and family, his wife Ruth (Hubbard); his three sons Michael, David and Elijah; and his daughter Deborah; and

WHEREAS: George will be sorely missed by all he touched and loved; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathy to the family of **George Wald** at this time of such personal loss; and be it further

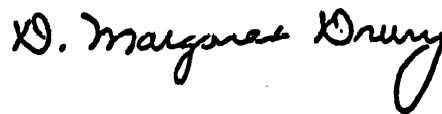
RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the Wald family on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council April 14, 1997

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;



ATTEST:-

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

HD
✓
all

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a 1969 speech at MIT entitled "A Generation in Search of a Future," which was widely reported and translated into several languages; he continued his political activism "which he called "biology with a vengeance" and "survival politics" for the rest of his life; and

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George Wald, at 90, won Nobel prize in '67

George Wald, who won the Nobel Prize in 1967 for his work on the biochemistry of vision, has died. He was 90.

Mr. Wald died Saturday at his Cambridge home after two years of declining health.

Born in Manhattan's lower East Side to Jewish immigrants, Mr. Wald studied zoology at Washington Square College of New York University and did graduate work at Columbia University.

As a National Research Council fellow in Germany in 1932, he helped find vitamin A in the retina and discovered retinal, a component of the visual cycle. These discoveries laid the foundation for his later scientific work on how people see.

Hitler's rise to power forced him to leave Germany for the University of Chicago, where he completed his fellowship.

He joined the faculty at Harvard University in 1934, teaching biology and doing research for 43 years. He invented and taught for decades a freshman biology course called Natural Sciences 5.

In 1966, a Time magazine cover story hailed him as one of the 10 best teachers in the country.

His 1967 Nobel Prize in

Medicine or Physiology was for his work on the chemical reactions that light sets off in the receptors of the eye. These, in turn, trigger nervous impulses along the optic nerve to the brain.

Mr. Wald also was a peace activist, declaring his opposition to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam in a speech on March 4, 1969, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"A Generation in Search of a Future" was widely reprinted and translated into several languages.

Mr. Wald, who was proud to find his name on President Richard Nixon's so-called "enemies list," traveled around the country to speak on issues including the Cold War and the arms race, nuclear power and human rights. He called his efforts "survival politics." He visited Vietnam and China in the 1970s and later traveled to Iran, Cuba, Nicaragua and the Soviet Union.

He leaves his wife and longtime coworker, Ruth Hubbard, four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service is being planned. Burial will be private.

WE ACCEPT



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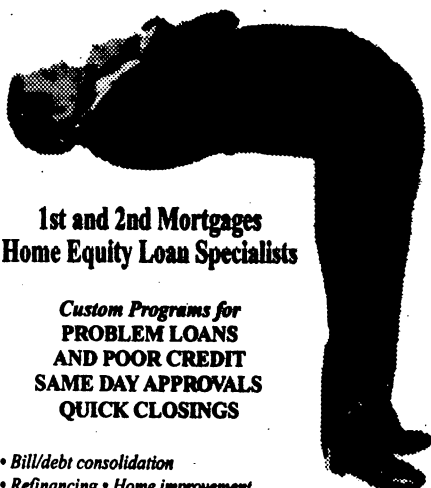
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OTHER OBITUARIES | Page B12

George Wald, 90; Nobel laureate, Harvard biologist, peace activist

By Edgar J. Driscoll
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

George Wald of Cambridge, Nobel Prize-winning biologist, peace activist, and professor emeritus of biology at Harvard University, died at his home Saturday after two years of declining health. He was 90.

One of the nation's first academics to come out against the United States' involvement in Southeast Asia, he was considered a hero by many students in the 1960s for his opposition to the Vietnam War.

Winner of the Nobel Prize in the physiology of Medicine in 1967 for his explanation of how vitamin A is critical to sight, Mr. Wald also received national recognition for a speech he made at Massachusetts Institute of Technology two years later.

Mr. Wald called the speech delivered from hastily prepared notes on March 4, 1969, "A Generation in Search of a Future." In it, he told some 1,500 students and scientists: "I think the Vietnam War is the most shameful episode in the whole of American history." He said that he thought our nation had lost the war and he rejected US militarism in general and nuclear weapons specifically.

With that speech he emerged from academic seclusion to become a spokesman for disaffected, disenfranchised youth and an outspoken opponent of nuclear proliferation and governmental warmongering, as well as overpopulation, pollution, imperialism and science for profit.

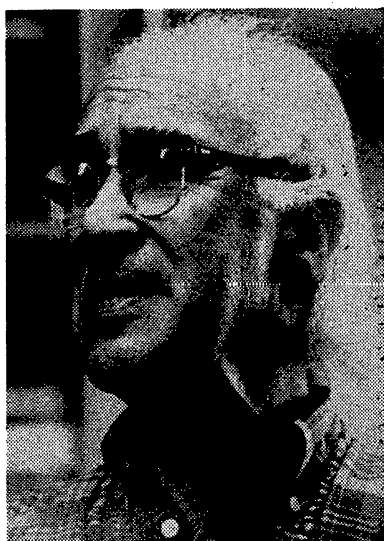
After stepping down as Higgins Professor of Biology at Harvard in 1977, Mr. Wald forsook laboratory work to devote his time and energies to political causes, which he called "biology with a vengeance" and "survival politics."

In Cambridge he became a leading spokesman in a bid to move genetic research to less populous areas because of what he saw as a danger of contamination to the community.

Also, during the Iranian hostage crisis of 1980, he was one of nine US citizens who accompanied former Attorney General Ramsey Clark to the "Crimes Against Iran" conference in Tehran. They faced possible civil charges for violating a ban on travel by Americans to Iran.

Broad-shouldered, slim, with an ascetic's spareness and wispy, snow-white hair, Mr. Wald was first and foremost a teacher. He was proud to have lectured in a freshman biology course for 16 years before his retirement. In 1966, he was hailed in a Time Magazine cover story as one of "the 10 best teachers in the country."

Mr. Wald's popular course at Harvard was "The Nature of Living Things." Widely traveled, he spent half the year in Cambridge and the remainder in a rambling barn of a house at Woods Hole, Falmouth, where he labored for 40 years at the Marine Biological Laboratory.



1971 GLOBE FILE PHOTO

GEORGE WALD

Mr. Wald was born in New York City on Nov. 18, 1906, the son of Nathan Wald and Ernestine (Rosenmann) Wald. He received a bachelor's degree from New York University in 1927, a master's degree from Columbia University the following year and a doctorate from Columbia in 1932.

He joined the Harvard faculty as a tutor in biochemistry in 1934-35.

He was chairman of the divisional committee of biology and medical science of the National Science Foundation, as a Guggenheim Fellow and an overseas fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge University.

Among honors he received were the Eli Lilly prize of the American Chemical Society; the Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association; and the Proctor Medal of the Association of Research in Ophthalmology.

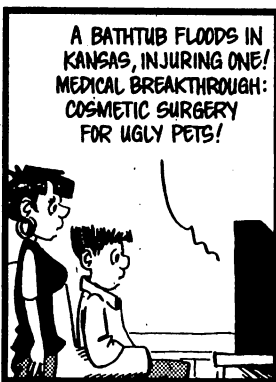
He was a fellow of the National Academy of Science, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

Coauthor of "General Education in a Free Society," whose principles and recommendations guided Harvard's program in general education, and "Twenty-Six Afternoons of Biology," he also had written many scientific papers on vision, biochemistry, and evolution. In the 1950s he published a series of popular science pieces in Scientific American, of which the best known was "The Origin of Life."

In his remarks on receiving the Nobel Prize in Stockholm in 1967, Mr. Wald said: "A scientist lives with all reality. There is nothing better. To know reality is to accept it, and eventually to love it. A scientist is in a sense a learned child. There is something of the scientist in every child. Others can outgrow it. Scientists can stay that way all their lives."

He leaves his wife, Ruth (Hubbard) of Cambridge, a fellow biologist and Harvard professor; three sons, Michael of Elmira, N.Y., David of Bourne; Elijah of Cambridge; and a daughter, Deborah of San Francisco.

Funeral services will be private and a memorial service will be announced at a later date.

SHOE by Jeff MacNelly**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM** by Mike Peters**THATCH** by Jeff Shesol**ASTROLOGICAL FORECAST / EUGENE**

► **ARIES (March 21-April 20)** This will be an upsetting day if you jump to conclusions. Don't let business and emotional problems interfere with one another.

► **TAURUS (April 21-May 21)** Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize you have a good thing going. Avoid serious discussions.

► **GEMINI (May 22-June 21)** Put all thoughts of work out of your head. It is time for you to get serious about relaxation and meeting new friends.

► **CANCER (June 22-July 22)** You may overreact to emotional situations today. Don't jump to conclusions without having all the pertinent facts.

► **LEO (July 23-Aug. 23)** Secret love

affairs must be avoided. Your reputation is at stake and the person in question is just playing with your emotions.

► **VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 22)** Today will be progressive; you will get involved in worthwhile organizations. Be cautious not to be too demanding.

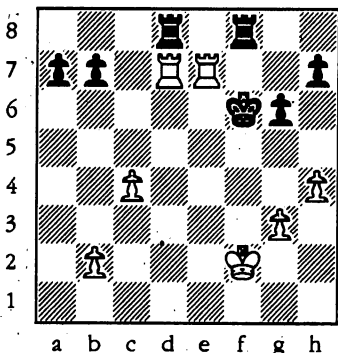
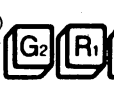
► **LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** You will be frazzled if you don't take time to relax and enjoy yourself. If you plan carefully there will be no problems.

► **SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** You will have the energy to accomplish your goals. Don't hesitate to present your ideas and put them into action.

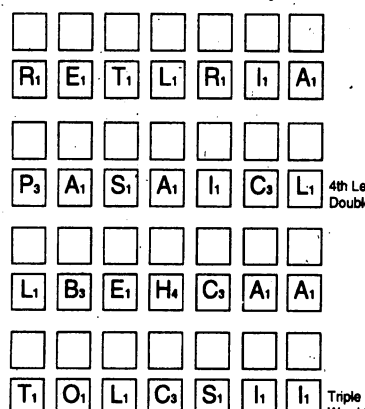
► **SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** You may feel like there is less pressure on you today. However, the stress you have encountered

CHESS

By Shelby Lyman

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Consent ORder #88

R-577

Councillor Davis and entire
membership re: REsolution on
the deathof George Wald.

In City Council April 14, 1997

ORDER ADOPTED