

Hans Eric Tausig was born on August 23rd, 1931 in Frankfurt, Germany. The only child of Victor Erich & Bertha Ahrenholtz Tausig, he survived the *Anschluss* in Vienna, the *Kindertransport* to Holland and fled occupied Europe with his parents to find refuge in the United States. They settled in Peoria, Illinois where Hans graduated high school in 1949. He moved to New York City and initially attended NYU, but college was just not for him, so he volunteered for the US Army during the Korean Conflict. He served in the Army from 1951-1954. His tour of duty included "Operation Castle" at Bikini Atoll. Due to security restrictions, 15 years passed before Hans could talk about his classified experiences. Following the Army, Hans returned to the East Coast, briefly attended Middlebury College, before working in the chartering department of American Union Transport in New York City.

Ultimately hired by Philip Brothers/Engelhard to run Metal Transport, their international shipping conglomerate, Hans remained there for 30 years. When he left Engelhard, he formed his own shipping company: Nantucket Navigation. After fielding so many calls from people trying to book ferry reservations to Nantucket Island, his personal assistant gave up and kept the schedule for the ferries at her desk. She happily gave out the number for the ticket office, if callers wanted anything more than sailing information. In his business and personal life, Hans always placed great emphasis on honesty and ethics. His word truly was his bond.

On December 8th, 1960, Hans went on a blind date with the sister of his friend Ernie Frank. Five months later, Ernie was the best man at the marriage of Hans to Eva-Maria Frank on April 23rd, 1961. Theirs has been a love story that lasted his entire life.

Eva-Maria, who had been coming to Nantucket since the late 1930's introduced Hans to the Island in April 1962, starting his life-long romance with Nantucket. They came every year for the rest of his life.

After retirement, Hans worked for 2 years as the General Manager of New York Grand Opera. He then decided it was time to go back to school, earning his Bachelors Degree from Adelphi University and a Masters in English Literature from NYU.

Music played a strong role in Hans' life. An accomplished violin & viola player, he joined several orchestras; including a memorable tour of Hungary and Romania which were still behind the Iron Curtain. Hans' major interest was chamber music, which he played privately and publicly for the majority of his life. A season ticket holder at the Metropolitan Opera and Carnegie Hall, Hans delighted in attending operas at the great music halls around the world.

As President and part-time auctioneer of the Violin Society of America, he planned their annual conferences and biennial International Instrument-Making Competitions for years. President of the Musicians' Foundation of New York, Founding Board Member and President of The Rare Book School at the University of Virginia (where he also attended classes for multiple summers), member of the Bohemians, and member of the Grolier Club, Hans' interests in retirement reflected his love of music and literature.

With his wife Eva-Maria, he founded and served on the Board of the Nantucket Community Music Center. He was a life member of the Nantucket Historical Association, the Maria Mitchell Association, and the Nantucket Lightship Basket Museum. His memberships in the Artists' Association of Nantucket, the Nantucket Athenaeum, and the Nantucket Yacht Club brought him great joy. He served on the Board of the Nantucket Conservation Foundation for many years and held an advisory position at the time of his death.

Hans and Eva-Maria raised four children, instilling in each a love of the arts, music, travel and above all, a thirst for knowledge. Hans never did anything part-way – if he was interested by or engaged in something, he put 100% of his effort into it, a trait passed on to their children. His wit, humor, love of life and interest in art, music, and people were prodigious. He created a sense of community wherever he went.

He is predeceased by his beloved dog, Twink, a stray from the streets. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eva-Maria Frank Tausig, their four children, Jephtha, Jared, Jotham and Justin, their four spouses and eight grandchildren. Per his wishes, observances will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Musician's Foundation of New York or the Rare Book School in Charlottesville, Virginia.