

## David Leichtung

9/7/30 – 12/6/11

by Doug Kent

It was a beautiful South Florida fall day as I drove out west to interview our January Prime Timer. I had seen him at meetings several times and was anxious to interview this stunningly handsome man. I pulled into the driveway of his lovely home and rang the bell. I could hardly wait to start the interview.

Born on September 7, 1930 in Brooklyn, N.Y. he was the second of two boys. His parents could not decide on a name so our January Prime Timer was named after his grandfather. A normal Brooklyn childhood led him to PS 235 where he received his elementary education. At age 10 he remembers going to the movie house with his brother and was instantly intrigued with the pipe organ as it majestically rose from the orchestra pit, and with words projected on the silver screen would sing popular songs of the day along with others. A lifelong love affair began with the pipe organ. This love affair was strengthened and reinforced when he began pipe organ lessons under the guidance of the organist-director Carl Hofer. Shortly thereafter he began lessons with Vaughn Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey is now 96 years old and is still corresponding with our Prime Timer. He not only taught our Prime Timer the beauty of playing the pipe organ but also schooled him in the mechanics of the instrument.

High school was uneventful but fortunately it had a music program that included an electric organ in the auditorium and a wonderful female music teacher who watched over our Prime Timer. By the middle of his high school education, our Prime timer was receiving recognition of his talents and was earning money with his craft.

A music major at Brooklyn College was the next step for our talented Prime Timer. He decided to take off his second year of college to earn some money. He toured for one year with the Carolina Assemblies and earned enough money to purchase his first automobile, a Model A Ford. He returned to Brooklyn College and graduated with a BA degree. He continued his academic work at Hunter College to secure credits in Education. It was here that Bruce Prince-Joseph introduced him to the harpsichord, a second instrument of love.



He then moved to Michigan to become a high school music teacher-choir director and worked there for 3 years securing his Masters Degree from Wayne State. Missing New York he moved back to work in music education for the next 20 years. It was during this period that our Prime Timer held no less than 3 jobs; teaching, playing for the Temple and playing for a Methodist church.

In 1979 it was time for a change in his life so with John, his partner of 35 years, he moved to New England and started a mail order business. It was here in New England that he secured his second harpsichord. After selling his business, our Prime Timer decided to move to Florida. Here, he secured his home complete with his own pipe organ and began working with the Catholic school system in Miami. He reluctantly sold his two harpsichords and after several years of work our Prime Timer decided to retire where he now lives with his current partner.

Our Prime Timer was always good with foreign languages and through part of his teaching career taught French. He also learned some Hebrew and also speaks varying degrees of German, Italian and Spanish. He has always enjoyed foreign travel. Domestic in nature, he enjoys his home, his pipe organ that sits in a converted room in his home, and has always had a live-in partner. Sadly, David passed away on December 6, 2011.