

Former MAA President Leonard Gillman Dies (1917–2009)

Former MAA President Leonard Gillman (born January 8, 1917) died April 7, 2009 at his home in Austin, Texas. He was elected Treasurer of the MAA in 1973 and held that office until he was elected President. He served as President-Elect in 1986, as President in 1987–1988, and as Past President in 1989. All told, he served on the Board of Governors for 23 years, from 1973 to 1995. As Treasurer, he was known for his meticulous care of the MAA's finances and investments and for his innovative presentations of the Treasurer's Reports. Near the end of his term, he became an advocate for conducting MAA's national elections by "approval voting." This was adopted by the Board of Governors, though too late to affect Len who was the last President elected under the old rules.

As MAA President, Len was a strong supporter of the new Committee on Minority Participation. He served on this committee for several years, beginning with its inception in 1989. Also, as President, Len was approached by Dr. Charles Y. Hu, a geographer, and his wife Yueh-Gin Gung, a librarian, who wanted to provide long-lasting support of mathematics but didn't know how. He steered them to the MAA's Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics, which they then endowed in perpetuity. It is now known as The Gung Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics. It was rather fitting that Gillman himself was awarded the Gung Hu Award in 1999. See the citation in the February 1999 *American Mathematical Monthly*, page 97.

Gillman was born in Cleveland in 1917 and at age five moved to Pittsburgh, where he started piano lessons. After moving to New York in 1926, he began intensive training as a pianist. In 1933, upon graduation from high school, young Gillman won a fellowship to the Juilliard School of Music, from which he received a diploma in piano in 1938. Throughout his life, Gillman was an accomplished classical pianist and frequently performed in public, including four performances at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, two of them with a cellist, Louis Rowen, and two with the flautist and well-known mathematician, William Browder. Though he denied being a singer, he conducted 1900 mathematicians singing "Happy Birthday Dear American Mathematical Society" on the AMS's 100th birthday at the Atlanta Joint Mathematics Meetings in January 1988.



In 1942, Gillman received a B.S. in mathematics from Columbia University, a master's a year later, and in 1953 a PhD in mathematics from Columbia. He was at Tufts College 1943–1945 and M.I.T. 1945–1952, and served as a Naval operations analyst.

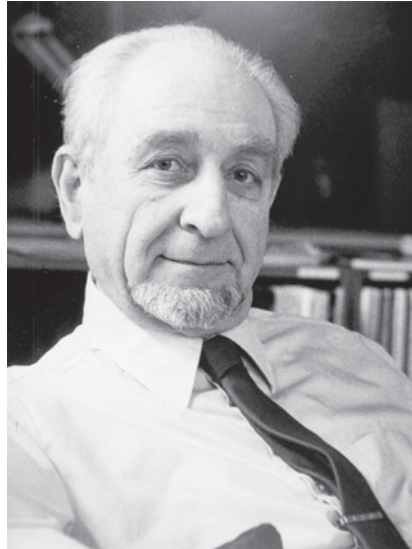
In 1952 he accepted a position at Purdue University and did research in general topology in collaboration with Melvin Henriksen, Meyer Jerison and others. Much of their research culminated in the classic book *Rings of Continuous Functions*, also known as "Gillman and Jerison." The book is very carefully written, and Len was especially proud of the complete index. He once commented that it was a copy of the text in alphabetical order.

In 1960 Gillman became chairman of the department of mathematics at the University of Rochester and played a key role in recruiting Arthur H. Stone and

his wife Dorothy Maharam, W. Wistar Comfort and future MAA President Kenneth A. Ross. Among his students were Doris Schattschneider and the current MAA Secretary, Martha Siegel.

“Many of you may remember his *Rings of Continuous Functions*, written with Meyer Jerison, and his wonderful piano performances at the Joint Meetings,” Martha Siegel said. “Those of us who were his students learned not only mathematics but also how to write (often painfully!) mathematics. Even with homework, he was a stickler for style and grammar. He was an excellent mentor to many of us in the MAA, and this is a great personal loss for me.”

While at Rochester, Gillman became involved in activi-



ties of the MAA, starting with CUPM (Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics). In 1969 Gillman went to the University of Texas, where he served as chair of the mathematics department for four years. He remained on the faculty until his retirement in 1987.

In addition to “Gillman and Jerison,” Gillman co-authored with Robert H. McDowell a rather successful book titled *Calculus*. He also wrote the invaluable guide *Writing Mathematics Well: A Manual for Authors*, published in 1987 by the MAA. An article, *An Axiomatic Approach to the Integral*, was published

in the *American Mathematical Monthly* in 1993 and received the MAA’s Lester R. Ford Award in 1994. 🍷

MAA Receives \$24,000 Bequest from the Estate of M. Gweneth Humphreys

Mathematician M. Gweneth Humphreys (1911-2006) has left \$24,000 from her estate for unrestricted use by the Association.

A member of the MAA for more than 70 years, Humphreys attended annual meetings and served on the Committee on Mathematical Personnel and Education (1956) and on the Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (1965-67).

A native of British Columbia, Humphreys graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1932. After receiving her master’s degree in 1933 from Smith College, she earned a PhD in mathematics in 1935 from the University of Chicago under the direction of Leonard E. Dickson (1874-1954). Her dissertation was titled “On the Waring Problem with Polynomial Summands,” and it was published in the *Duke Mathematical Journal* (vol. 1, no. 3).

In the period 1920-35, the University of Chicago had a total of 26 women PhD’s in mathematics, including Humphreys,

Mina Rees (1931), Frances Baker (1932), Anna Newton (1933), and Marie Litzinger (1934).

Humphreys taught for 13 years at H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College (New Orleans), the women’s college associated with Tulane University. In 1949, she joined the mathematics faculty of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College (Lynchburg, Virginia), now named Randolph College. Humphreys retired from Randolph-Macon in 1980, having been chairman of its mathematics department for 29 years.

Carol Wood, class of 1966, said, at Humphreys’ retirement, that she “has impressed me profoundly with her brilliance and capacity for hard work, I still stand in utter awe of both.... I am deeply grateful for the careful training and kind example she gave, both of which have been critical in my own pursuit of this great passion we share for mathematics.” 🍷