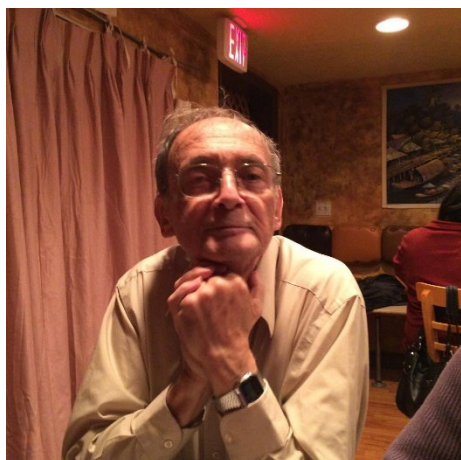


Robert Michael Morse
November 28th, 1935—August 14th, 2023



Accompanied by his favorite Beethoven's symphony, Bob died at 7:15pm on Tuesday, August 14th, 2023. With a dual diagnosis of Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, his health had been declining for many years. His was a long illness, borne with patience, day by day, breath by breath.

While not a qualitative researcher by training, Morse's influence on the field was significant. As husband of Janice Morse, founder of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology (IIQM) at the University of Alberta and of the journal *Qualitative Health Research*, Morse was actively involved with the development of qualitative health research and in qualitative methods more generally. Using his background in statistics and computer programming, he developed the QUAL program for the analysis of large sets of qualitative data for a mainframe computer in the 1980s, prior to the availability of computer analysis programs for qualitative data, to analyze data from the large scale longitudinal health research project on working mothers and breastfeeding that Jan was conducting. He was also co-creator with Jan of the Morse Fall Scale. And while his name appears on few qualitative publications, Jan would not release her voluminous articles and book manuscripts without first having Bob edit them. Bob's presence was a mainstay at IIQM and other qualitative conferences run by Jan.

Bob was born in 1935 in Rome, New York, as the eldest son of Julius and Anne Morse. The family relocated to Brooklyn, New York, after the birth of his sister, Linda, in 1942. Bob's propensity for mathematics was evident even during his high school years in the math club—but his real claim to fame was his classmate, Woody Allen. Bob received a BS in Physics from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1957 and an MS in Physics in 1958 from the University of Wisconsin. He describes his work in the scientific/computer environment as producing computer software that interfaces smoothly with people and an apparatus to provide useful support facilities. He specialized in real-time and interactive programming, instrument operating systems and traditional user support functions, debugging aids, simulations and emulations.

Bob was drafted by the US Army Chemical Center, Maryland (Dec 1959 to Feb 1962) to program their first computers. Next, he spent two years supporting the development of the BMD statistical program at UCLA Health Science Computing Facility. Moving to Utah, he worked for Kennecott Copper Corporation. Then he began work as a graduate student at the University of Utah (1968-74) in physics and computer science (M.Phil. [Physics] in 1976). Working for the University of Utah Chemistry Department and the Flammability Center, his skills continued to develop and change as computers, equipment, and software evolved.

On July 26th, 1980 at Snowbird, Utah, he married graduate student, Janice Hambleton Pearson and gained a new family with children Nicola Pearson and Murray Pearson. In Dec 1981 they emigrated to Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. There Bob served as Programmer/Analyst at the University of Alberta Applied Sciences of Medicine and the Cross Cancer Institute for 10 years. Then he and Jan relocated to the Pennsylvania State University. Bob was appointed as Research Associate at the PSU Department of Mathematics, where he remained until his retirement in 2006.

So much for his work life. But what about the Bob we know and loved?

Bob's health had been declining for several years and in 2007 he made his final move to Salt Lake City, home amongst the Utah mountains and old friends, with his boundaries gradually shrinking.

Despite perfection, there were

Things he did not do:

'Farming' (gardening)

Pay for parking

Watch the news

File stuff; discard anything; finish anything

Things he tolerated:

Shopping

Moving

Things at which he excelled:

Crosswords, puzzles of all types, Rubik's cube

Mathematics, computing, all things science-ish

His laptop, books, & music

A proficient flutist, and sometimes skier

Visiting family in Staten Island & New Zealand

Theatre, movies, eating out

Driving the kids from gigs in the middle of the night

Laughing, joking, talking, winning at Scrabble

Knowing things, knowing everything

Supporting Jan, hugging

As you remember Bob, add to this list—

He had a brilliant mind, a tremendous sense of humor, and was deeply loved by all.

Doggie Woggy is still looking for him around the house.