



**Art Lichtman sips and then questions the high price of a \$16.49-a-bottle Barbaresco.**

## In Memoriam: Art Lichtman

In Memoriam - The passing of a great IWAGY member

Art Lichtman passed away in early May; some of us in IWAGY were able to attend his funeral. It's important for all of us to recognize some of the many contributions that Art made to the Club. Of course, Art was much more than this, as his family attested at his funeral, and we know from various sources how important he was to IBM in his job. No one can sum up a person's life when it has so many aspects, so we'll just try to talk about some of those that we experienced first-hand. This photograph from the Poughkeepsie Journal shows Art sipping a Barbaresco at an IWAGY wine tasting during the club's first decade of existence. He was known for his witty comments about wines, preferring his own simple analysis (thumbs up or down) to attempts for more sophisticated descriptions that were common at the time. Tim Free recalls how Art and Mike George literally took over IWAGY's management during Tim's years (mid-1990's) as a fully-enrolled student at the Culinary Institute of America. You would likely not be enjoying IWAGY events today if not for these two individuals.

One of Art's passions was his taekwondo club, and eventually Art became a black belt. He was so dedicated to this group that for many years IWAGY never met on Wednesdays, as Art would have been excluded- his taekwondo night. There was a positive "IWAGY spin-off" from Art's membership in this group- it led to a much-remembered dinner at The Milanese, the place where Art's martial arts club met after their workouts.

Art established and maintained diverse interests throughout his life, from cooking to travel, IWAGY to attending the US Open tennis tournament. He was always interested in learning to do something better, be it using chopsticks, opening a bottle of sparkling wine or finding the best way to sharpen his knives, and he would push for a hands-on demonstration. When Art took something on he did it in depth, and was loyal to his commitments. We understand that he did some substitute teaching after retiring from IBM, and was dumbstruck when the HS students expected a study hall period rather than the instruction he'd planned.

He did know his limits - often related to technology - and wasn't shy about asking for help in formatting the newsletter (when the Club switched from hard-copy/US Mail to email) which he had done for years. He was also somewhat of a cautious Luddite when it came to using social media to attract new members or increase event attendance. In many ways we think Art liked the original style of IWAGY, focused on education and careful with the risks it took interacting with the general public.

Art was a well-traveled person and often related his experiences to the Club at our regular wine tastings and at meetings of various committees and officers. He'd visited China, South America, and other places off the beaten track, and had many stories to tell. One thing that's difficult to convey is Art's sense of humor. For our newer members who never had the privilege of meeting Art, we'll just have to relate "Art stories" to give you a sense of his personality.

Senior members of IWAGY