

## **TOM HAINES MEMORIAL RECEPTION BREAK CHAT**

**May 5, 2024, 2-5 PM**

### **SPEAKERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE**

**Mike Lapham • Maria D'Angelo • Wally Greenberg • Yongho Lee • Dave Waldman • Claire Spector • Eugenia Mileykovskaya • Berry & Nigel Birdsall • Dennis & Jean Vance • Dolores Fish • Barb Gusway • Frances Cleveland • Dave Krikun • Mia Bianchi • Pat Bianculli • Aislyn Colgan**

**Mike Lapham:** Say your name first.

**Maria D'Angelo:** Hi. This is Maria D'Angelo. I'm sorry I couldn't come. I'm in Florida right now and I did visit Tom about a year and a half ago.

**Mike:** I don't think they hear you because I think the whole Zoom is cut.

**Maria:** Anyway, he was wonderful and he was the best professor ever.

**Mike:** You might as well call them and call their apartment. Do you have their number?

**Maria:** Yes. I'm going to get out of here.

**Mike:** Maybe during this time, people want to introduce themselves to each other since we're not schmoozing in the room.

**Maria:** I'm going to leave. Hello?

**Mahesh Lakshman:** Hello.

**Maria:** Hi. I'm Maria D'Angelo. I was part of the first-year class at the Sophie Davis Center. He was one of the most memorable professors ever. He used to invite the medical students to his home and he was a wonderful, wonderful man. He made it bearable because it was a tough program and he was very kind and knowledgeable and the best man to be teaching. I'm glad I visited him before he passed. He was just starting to have some dementia, but he still had the old Tom Haines. Love him. I just always loved him. Polly is a wonderful lady and they were very kind to invite me. I was lucky enough to get his book and he signed it for me. He was a wonderful man.

**Mike:** Thank you. What if I just call on people so that we're not all talking at once? If you want to say something, you could say something, and then if not, we'll move on. I'm just going to go in order of how people are on my screen if that's okay.

**Maria:** You can move on. I just wanted to say that and I'll call Polly sometime this week to talk with her. Thank you so much. I wish I could have been here. Thank you.

**Mike:** I can see Pearl Katz with--

**Wally Greenberg:** I'm Wally Greenberg and I just want to say I knew Tom for many, many years. He was a man of great integrity and also someone who-- [silence]

**Mike:** We all got put on mute, I think accidentally, but can you go back off mute?

**Wally:** Yes. I just want to say that I knew Tom for many years.

**Pearl:** 60 years.

**Wally:** 50 years. He was really a force of nature. A very honest person. Did not suffer fools gladly [silence]--

**Pearl:** You're muted again.

**Mike:** I have a feeling they're muting us because we're being broadcast into the room maybe in a way that they don't want. We could keep trying [silence]--

**Wally:** It's okay. The host muted me.

**Pearl:** You can talk [unintelligible 00:03:36]

**Mike:** Just going to say, can we talk amongst ourselves here? Go ahead. One more time. Let's keep trying.

**Wally:** I knew Tom. I knew Adrian. I knew Fika.

**Pearl:** Tell who Fika is.

**Wally:** Fika was Tom's grandmother. [Adrian's mother and Avril's grandmother] I have great, great respect for his honesty and integrity and for his not being willing to mute himself when he thought there were things to be said that had to be said even if they were uncomfortable.

**Pearl:** You knew Avril as a little girl, didn't you?

**Wally:** Yes, that's right. I knew Avril as a little girl. You're right.

**Mike:** Andrew, do you have anything you wanted to say? Andrew Lee?

**Andrew:** Yes. Hi. I'm a graduate of Sophie Davis, Class of '95. I didn't finish my clinical rotation, so I didn't get my MD. After that, I took some of Dr. Haines' graduate courses and I'm now here out in Hawaii teaching science in a secondary school. Being an immigrant from South Korea, there were a lot of cultural, financial, and many other areas that I need to get some directions on and Dr. Haines was just a tremendous, one-of-a-kind mentor. I just follow and learn so much about life and he has been more like a second father to me. I'm really appreciative and grateful for the

time that he made available when I needed to ask help or advice. He was always there. I'm truly grateful for it.

**Mike:** Nice. Dave Waldman, you're next on my screen and we'll try to keep it to 30 seconds or a minute each. Do you want to unmute yourself, Dave?

**David Waldman:** How's that?

**Mike:** Yes.

**David:** I met Tom in 1953, that's 71 years ago. We were fellow students at City College in a chemistry class, and we have been friends ever since. I've gone through his marriages and all of his changes in his life and he was quite an amazing fellow. You've heard so much about him that I can't even add to it, but he is sorely missed.

**Mike:** Thank you, Dave. My name, by the way, is Mike Lapham. I can't change my name on screen, but I know Polly and Tom through the Responsible Wealth Project that I've organized at United for a Fair Economy in Boston. I've often stayed with them and shared Tom's drink collection and also that feeling that you're special to him, that he's interested in you. That probably goes for all of us, which is really quite amazing characteristic. Charles Sepos, you're next if you want to unmute, and then Eugenia and Nigel are next. There you go.

**Charles:** Claire. I'm with Claire Spector.

**Claire Spector:** I'm a cousin. Aunt Fika was my great aunt and Adrian was my dad's cousin. Tom and Polly, have just continued. They're my cousins all through my life. Tom bought me my first diary with a lock and key. I knew him through his marriage to Adrian. I've seen Avril grow up and Tom has always continued to be very central and special in my life. When I partnered with Charles, they share a love of music. Charles being a classical composer. It was when my mom fell in New York and was in her last week in hospital, Tom and Polly gave us a place to be, [crosstalk] visited us in the hospital. She would call to talk music with Charles and we would sit at the little round marble table whenever we were in New York. A friend, a loved one, and a mentor through thick and thin.

**Mike:** Can you say your name again? Sorry.

**Claire:** I'm Claire Spector. Tom's cousin.

**Mike:** Next on my screen, Eugenia, if you want to say something, and then Nigel's screen next. We're just saying something, if you'd like to, the group that's on hold during the break, and then you might have an opportunity later to say it again if you want to say it to the whole group, but we're just using this time. Eugenia, you're on on mute. If you want to say something, come on off mute.

**Eugenia Mileykovskaya:** Can you hear me talk?

**Mike:** Now, yes.

**Eugenia:** Yes?

**Mike:** Yes. Now we can.

**Eugenia:** I was doing some scientific work together with Tom. I'm from Houston, from McGovern Medical School and I actually was interested in organization of cardiolipin and bacterial membrane and use some fluorescent dye to study organization of cardiolipin in membrane and found some cardiolipin domains. After that, Tom was very interested. You already know this because of someone already explained how he was interested in organization of phospholipids in the membrane and specifically of cardiolipin, and we did together some work. I visited him in his university. Actually, and we have paper together.

**Mike:** Nice. Thank you. Nigel, and whoever else is on that screen. Do you want to say something? Then I have Dennis next.

**Berry:** Okay. We're Nigel and Berry Birdsall and we're in London. I was one of those lucky students of Tom and enjoyed his mentoring for all the time. I joined his lab in 1966 when I was a chemistry student at Brooklyn College. I was wondering about what research would be liked. I was sent to Tom's lab because the person said Tom was not prejudiced against women, and that's what I found. He was an extremely encouraging person. Even when I left his lab to marry Nigel in England,-

**Nigel:** Cambridge.

**Berry:** -he wrote me a wonderful letter of recommendation to go to Cambridge there and my life became part--- I then lived in England from then on, but we kept in touch and were good friends for all the way through.

**Dennis Vance:** Those lipid scientists that we've met Tom [crosstalk]

**Berry:** Okay. One other, I remember when Avril was born because we were in the lab. I was in the lab then, and I remember Adrian had three days of labor and I'm just so glad that Tom and I kept in touch and had many visits both in England and there.

**Mike:** Nice. Thank you. Dennis, do you want to say something? Then I have Tanya Lewis next if you want to, or Dolores.

**Dennis:** Hi, it's Dennis Vance. Jean Vance is my wife and we are both lipid scientists. We knew Tom for 30 or 40 years and met him at various meetings throughout the world and several times in New York. We always enjoyed our interactions with Tom and think we were very lucky to have known him.

**Mike:** Nice. Thank you. Tanya, if you're there, do you want to say anything? I don't see you on the screen, so maybe you're taking a break. Dolores, you're off mute. Would you like to say something?

File name: Tom Mem MP4s break chat ttl.mp4

**Dolores:** Yes. Just just a couple of words. I didn't know Tom or Polly very well, but I'm the wife of Jefferson Fish who is actually there and I'm sure he will contribute something. In any case, even with a very brief acquaintanceship, I could tell that yes indeed, all of the things being said about him I could see that in him. I'm probably close to his age, so it was late for me and I didn't know him early on.

I was actually at Brooklyn College. I must have been at Brooklyn College, maybe when he was at CUNY, I'm not sure, but in any case, we shared the New York City University. Well, any case, that's my memory and I really appreciate seeing all of the people whose lives he's touched. Thank you. [chuckles]

**Mike:** Thank You. Barb Gusway you have your hand up and look like you might have something to say, and Frances Cleveland, if you want to be next.

**Barb Gusway:** My daughter, Andy and I met Tom and Polly later in life just about six or seven years ago. Six years ago maybe, my daughter did a history project on the Graham Windham and we ended up making some connections and met Tom and Polly at an event at the Smithsonian. Tom really made a nice impression on my daughter, and we kept in touch and have visited.

Tom was just a really, really great influence, even in his older age and in his later years on the youth, and I just wanted to say that even though we only knew him for a brief time, that we value and cherish our friendship that we had with him and Polly.

**Mike:** Nice. Thank you. Frances, I see you coming off mute and I see David Krikun next, and we'll go from there.

**Frances Cleveland:** Okay. As you can probably tell from my last name, Polly and I are sisters.

**Mike:** And your voice. [chuckles]

**Frances:** What I remember the first time, or more or less, the first time I really met Tom we spent probably almost a whole night discussing. Well, Polly had been going through some rough times with a divorce and all of that, so Tom and I spent almost the whole night discussing Polly's issues and how he felt about them. He was so supportive that it amazed me how supportive he was of all the different things that Polly had been going through and how he was going to help her and fix up the problems and let her grow on her own, but not let her dangle in the wind. That really, really impressed me. We kept talking 'til about 5:00 AM in the morning about this, and of course, I've had many recollections of Tom since then, but I felt that one was particularly important to me.

**Mike:** Sounds like Tom, for sure. David Krikun or the other person who's in the lens there, do you want to come off mute and say anything now or pass?

**David Krikun:** [unintelligible 00:17:22] say something.

**Ms. Krikun:** Yes. David's going to say something. I'm just unmuting him just a moment.

**Mike:** Yes, you're all set. He's off mute. Go ahead, David.

**David:** I think I might be one of Tom's oldest friends. We met at City College. We roomed together one summer and I saw in him something very special and I think that I feel grateful having known him and Adrian and Polly and of course his daughter Avril, who is such a remarkable woman who emerged as such an important woman in the government. [background noise] **[unintelligible 00:18:22]** child, literally **[unintelligible 00:18:28]** with him in the park in the middle of the park, when the COVID period was [crosstalk]

**Mike:** Are they coming back?

**David:** **[unintelligible 00:18:33]** and they live in Jackson Heights, which is, **[unintelligible 00:18:40]** which was sort of the epicenter of all of this.

**Mike:** Okay. The main **[unintelligible 00:18:50]** seems to be back on mute, which means that Mia, if you wanted to say something, you could come off mute and [sound cut]--

**Pearl:** You are on mute now.

**Mike:** Sorry about that. I was trying to call on Mia. If Mia wanted to speak during this time and come off mute or Aislyn, if you would like to come off mute you're next or Pat Bianculli. Whoever comes off mute first I'll call on you. Pat, there you are.

**Pat Bianculli:** Hi, Mike.

**Mike:** Lisa and Bertrand maybe **[unintelligible 00:19:45]** We've been muted again. Maybe they're trying-- I don't know. I don't think they're trying to start. Go ahead and come off mute again, Pat.

**Pat:** Sure. I met Tom in [silence]--

**Mike:** I'm off mute again, Pat. Try it again.

**Pat:** Yes. I met Tom in 1984 when my wife was hired to help Adrian through her medical issues. We stayed friends all of these years. I'll just tell a quick story about Tom in recent years. For about three years in a row, we got together with him on December the 8th into Central Park for the John Lennon Memorial. He was a great music lover, as you know, and Kat **[inaudible 00:20:41]** are both musicians. We'd go walk in the park and he'd mix wine spritzes for us and we'd go sit on a bench and sing Beatles songs with everybody for a few years in a row. It was a great treat. Tom was very fond of people. **[unintelligible 00:21:01]** with him and we were fond of him too.

**Mike:** Thanks Pat. It seems like maybe they're trying to start again. **[unintelligible 00:21:12]** Thank you everybody for doing that.

**Polly:** Sorry, I wasn't thinking. Here are the mics. Question, are they working?

[background conversation]

**Mike:** Okay. It looks like they are not quite starting yet. Mia, I see you have a hand up do you want to say something at this moment? You're on mute and you might have to keep unmuting yourself, but so far, you're still on mute. Little button-down in the corner. Microphone button on one of your screens. Mia, maybe you want to put something in the chat if you aren't able to unmute. Aislyn, if you [sound cut].

**Aislyn Colgan:** Did you say my name? I'm sorry I checked out. Did somebody say my name? Sorry, I checked out. Somebody say my name.

**Participant:** Mic got muted again.

**Mike:** We're trying to squeeze in some comments to each other on the break. Aislyn did you want to say something?

**Aislyn:** Yes, I would actually. I think it's been really great to hear everyone. My uncle--

**Mia:** [foreign language]

**Mike:** Mia, is that you Mia?

**Mia:** [foreign language]

**Aislyn:** Did Mia already speak?

**Mike:** We're having some fun here. Go ahead, Aislinn.

**Aislyn:** I just wanted to share, that one of the biggest roles that Tom always played in my life was encouraging me. There was a time when I was 19 and was arrested for protesting and my parents were so mad, and I spent like two weeks in jail. When I [sound cut] and they said, "We're so proud of you." [laughs] It was so good because everyone else was so mad at me. Yes, it was really important to have that in my life. I'm thankful for both of them.

**Mike:** Okay, I see official people trying to make it look like we're going back.

**[00:26:20] [END OF AUDIO]**