

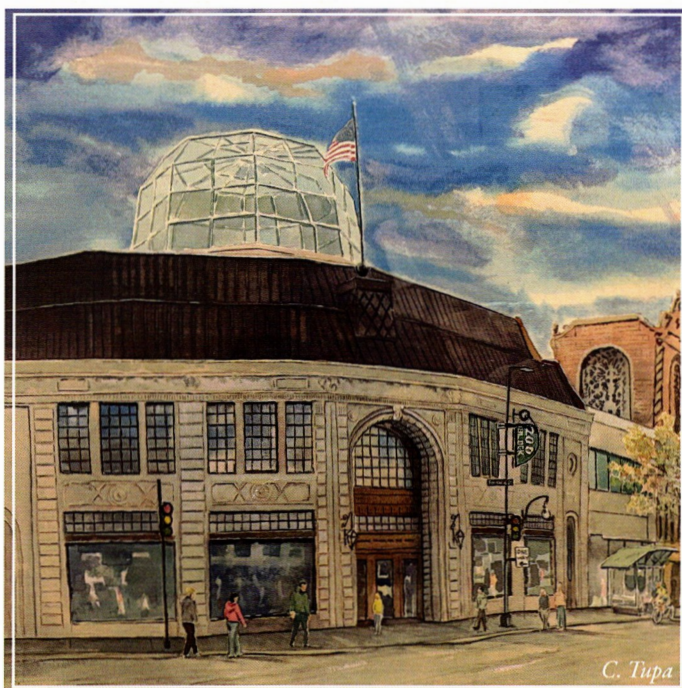


Jerry Frautschi

Sept 9, 1931 - Jan 8, 2026

“Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving kindness.”

Dalai Lama



“Overture Center, my gift to Madison, continues the tradition of civic pride and responsibility that my family has honored since 1867. It is given in appreciation of the good life Madison has given us.”

Jerry Frautschi

Greg Zelek, organ JJ Koh, clarinet

Rhapsodie String Quartet

Suzanne Beia, violin
Laura Burns, violin
Melissa Snell, viola
Karl Lavine, cello

Hunt String Quartet

Paran Amirnazari, violin
Hillary Hempel, violin
Jennifer Paulson, viola
Trace Johnson, cello

The family extends a special thank you to the Madison Symphony Orchestra for providing the music for this program.

Jerry Frautschi
Memorial Service
Holy Wisdom Monastery
February 21, 2026

Opening Music: *Arthur Sullivan*, The Lost Chord

Greeting and Welcome: S. Mary David Walgenbach, OSB

Speaker: George Austin

Music: *Barber*, Adagio for Strings

Speakers: Jac Garner
Paul Frautschi

Music: *Mozart* Clarinet Quintet, K.581
I. Allegro

Speakers: Lance Frautschi
Grant Frautschi

Music: *Saint-Saëns*, Symphony No. 3, in C minor
Op. 78 "Organ"
III. Poco adagio

Speaker: Valerie Tripp

Closing remarks: S. Mary David Walgenbach, OSB

Music: *Irving Berlin*, Blue Skies (*Jerry's favorite song*)
Gail Becker, soloist



Walter Jerome Frautschi passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 8, 2026, in Boca Grande, Florida, closing a long and remarkable life that began on September 9, 1931, in Madison, Wisconsin. Born to Dorothy and Walter Frautschi, Jerry grew into a man whose quiet strength, unwavering devotion to family, and deep-rooted kindness touched everyone around him.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 49 years, Pleasant Rowland, whose partnership and companionship were the greatest joys of his life; his three sons—Paul, Lance (Susan), and Grant (Sarah)—with whom he shared a bond marked by pride, encouragement, and enduring love; and his first wife, Ellen Johnson (Peter), who remained an important part of his life story. Jerry was also a devoted brother to the late John Frautschi (Mary) and a deeply cherished grandfather to Parker, Grace, Hope, and Amelia, each of whom brought immense joy and light into his later years. Above all, Jerry treasured the moments—big and small—that he shared with his sons throughout their lives, finding profound happiness in watching them grow into men he deeply admired.

Educated at Fountain Valley School in Colorado Springs, CO (class of 1949) and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Madison (class of 1956), Jerry served in the Navy as a code breaker during the Korean conflict from 1951 to 1954. Admired universally for his integrity, humility, and kindness, Jerry led his family's printing company, Webcrafters, with his brother, John, until his retirement in 1997. He played golf and tennis with childhood friends and spent many joyful days sailing, fishing, swimming, and skating on Lake Mendota and at his family's cottage on Pine Lake in northern Wisconsin.

Jerry's deep commitment to the arts was evident in the joy he and Pleasant found in attending musical performances and theatrical plays at the Overture Center, the recipient of his extraordinary \$205 million gift -- one of the largest contributions to the arts in American history. His generosity extended widely to schools, hospitals, student centers, community colleges, civic organizations, and environmental groups. His gifts were remarkable not only for their impact but also for the humility with which they were made. Jerry's own words, inscribed in the Overture Center's rotunda, best capture his spirit: "Overture Center, my gift to Madison, continues the tradition of civic pride and responsibility that my family has honored since 1867. It is given in appreciation of the good life Madison has given us." Jerry's commitment to community, his leadership, and his unwavering loyalty left a transformative and enduring mark on Madison. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him or were touched by his kindness.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who has offered condolences and to his devoted caregivers, with special gratitude to Sara Sirianni and Steven Maerz who cared so lovingly for Jerry. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Overture Forever campaign at overture.org or the Jerry Awards at overture.org/give/jerry-awards.