



## Albert J Niznik Jr

August 7, 1931 - January 2, 2021

Albert John Niznik, Albert was born in 1931 and lived in Pueblo. Growing up in childhood years during the Depression followed by WWII made lasting impressions on his understandings of historical events, their causes and the consequences, all of which became the source of discussion comparisons and analogies to current events. After graduating in 1953 from the University of Colorado and subsequently earning a Masters of Science Degree in chemistry, Albert taught mostly chemistry at Pueblo Central for 40 years. There were always ex-students, who upon meeting him in town, would show their gratitude and appreciation for the classes Albert taught. Albert greatly valued the importance of education and the continual efforts to seek knowledge, with the same diligence as the scientist he was; being supported by factual data, theory and proof of condition and hypothesis. His passion for science, which led to his college studies, started with grinding a telescope lens, which we still use today. That love for astronomy his whole life led to a subsequent passion of bird watching especially after retirement. As a son of parents with classical musical education, he was the consummate opera lover and enjoyed attending the Santa Fe Opera every year, as well as listening to the Metropolitan Opera in the winter. Albert married Virginia and together they raised two sons (Steve and Michael). They have been married for 58 years. As a family they enjoyed endless summers of hiking and fishing the alpine and subalpine lakes all-around Colorado and especially those above Westcliffe. Albert hiked up to those alpine lakes for 82 years, starting with his father. Fly fishing and tying flies was Albert's passion and source of enjoyment decades before it became in vogue as it is today. After retiring Albert and Virginia traveled extensively overseas with many trips to Europe and Africa as well as the Far East. They together enjoyed countless trips to Disney World during spring and fall; and traveled during those years extensively to other parts of western America and Canada. At the age of 70, Albert climbed Kilimanjaro. He forever found the above timberline wildflowers, birds and geology as great a source of passion as one would expect of a scientific mind. Throughout his life Albert prided himself in planting at least half the backyard in vegetables and flowers, especially wild flowers of Colorado. In his later years of retirement Albert truly loved his granddaughters and had infinite patience with them. He

enjoyed reading to them very much, especially classic children's books from the 1930's and 40's. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; two sons and one brother. Sons, Steve Niznik and his wife Gina of Rockford, IL; Michael Niznik and his wife Yuli and their two daughters Imogene and Allyson of Houston, TX; brother Bernard Niznik and wife Dr. Marilyn Coonelly of Boulder/Telluride, CO. Private services to be held for the immediate family. Donations in lieu of flowers are requested to be in memory of Albert Niznik to The Audubon Society or National Park Service Conservation Association. Online condolences can be made at [roselawnpueblo.org](http://roselawnpueblo.org).

# Comments

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“ Virginia, Steve, Mike and Family,  
We are so sorry for your loss. Your loved one led a full life and touched many lives. He shared his expertise with many in a humble manner. He was committed to all of you and to his friends. He will be missed by all.  
Our hearts and prayers are with you at this sad time.  
With sincere sympathy,  
Gordon, Helen and Kevin Murley

**Helen MURley** - January 15 at 05:44 PM

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“ My heartfelt prayers go out to Mr. Niznik's family. He was my chemistry teacher in high school. He was the best teacher and opened my eyes to chemistry. I was always happy when I would run into him years later. He always remembered me and I will never forget him.

**Marilyn Carlino** - January 12 at 12:44 AM

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“ I like others was lucky to have Mr. Niznik as my chemistry professor at Central. He had the unique ability to allow you to believe in yourself, because he believed in us. When we doubted our abilities, he did not. I also pursued a degree in Chemistry in college because of Mr. Niznik and eventually became a pharmacist. My deepest sympathy to his family, he truly made a difference in so many people's lives.

Tressa Garza-Frazier

**Tressa Garza-Frazier** - January 11 at 01:27 PM

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“ My mom often spoke of Mr Niznik when I was young. She always called him her "favorite teacher" (still does) and said that he was a driving force behind her majoring in one of the natural sciences in college.

I was fortunate to experience Mr Niznik first hand when I took chem at Central in the 80s. What an incredible educator! He was my fave too. His passion for science was addictive and led thousands of kids (including my mom and me) to STEM degrees and careers.

I hope that Mr Niznik knew how much of an impact he made, not only on our individual lives, but on the world through the cumulative impact of the students he taught to love science!

RIP, Mr Niznik.

Cheryl Bisque (nee Frierson)

Cheryl Bisque - January 10 at 06:11 PM



“ I taught with mr iniznik at central and he did so much for the Hispanic students he will be rewarded in heaven for what he did I shall al remember him . He did what he did not for glory but because he was a kind a honest person. God bless him and his family

john nava - January 10 at 06:21 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Noralynn Hassold - January 10 at 05:14 PM



“ The lab coat pocket read "rapid, random and chaotic". He was such a great teacher! My first term in college chemistry I was not hard because I had had such a good foundation.

Noralynn Hassold - January 10 at 05:48 PM

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“ What an amazing man of enthusiasm, verve, and wit. Unlike so many math and science teachers, I never, ever saw him frown, his face was an eternal countenance of positive optimism. My chemistry class with Albert Niznik in 1967-68 is grand memory of my time at Central High. Who remembers our phase change experiments with paradichloromethane? ME! Mr. Niznik, I hope to see you in the afterlife, "periodically" !

James Abell - January 10 at 03:00 PM

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“ I'm saddened to hear of Albert Niznik's passing. Mr. Niznik was my chemistry teacher at Central High in the 73-74 school year. He was a wonderful and enthusiastic teacher. He always met his class with a smile. Mr. Niznik was one of the teachers that made me proudly pursue a scientific education and career. Mr. Niznik is remembered and will be missed.

Sincerely,  
Ken Danti

Ken Danti - January 10 at 02:16 PM

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“ Al was such a wonderful man and teacher. His standards were very high and he was highly respected by everyone. He was a Central High legend!

sandra cunningham - January 10 at 12:56 PM

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“ Condolences to the Niznik family. I, like many others here, were of the fortunate group of students to wander the 5th floor of Central and live the experience of Mr. Niznik, Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Driscoll. He was an amazing educator, compassionate about learning and sharing his teaching gift. You gave the push and ignited the spark for me to pursue chemistry and science in college. I would have rather spent hours in quant and organic labs than any other classes in college. You inspired many, rest now in peace.

Lynn Chavez - January 10 at 12:07 PM

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“ What an inspiring man! I have many memories of high school but they are not complete without the instruction I received from Mr. Niznik! Each and every time I recall Avogadro's number, I think of Mr. Niznik! His passion for chemistry infected me and was one of my early motivations to continue with science and engineering. What a great educator and decent man. I'm honored to have the privilege of learning from Mr. Niznik. Condolences to the family and thank you for sharing this good and inspiring man!

**Al Aguero** - January 10 at 10:55 AM

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“ I was lucky enough to have two years of chemistry with Mr Niznik at Central. He was the main reason I went to CU and majored in Chemistry. He was one of the best teachers I ever had. I am thankful for his teaching talents, and will be forever grateful to him, he made a huge difference in my life..... Rapid, Random, and Chaotic!

**Dennis P Driscoll** - January 10 at 10:36 AM

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“ Mr. Niznik was my favorite teacher. He also was a colleague of mine when I taught at Central. He was a very special person. I want to express my condolences to his family.

**Gwen Lindvay** - January 10 at 09:27 AM

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“ Phenomenal educator and always so palpably bubbling with vitality and enthusiasm. He was as unassuming as he was impactful in terms of shifting the course of students' lives. One of the rare people where you feel like they exemplified what it is to honor a vocation and bring their full presence to every moment. Mr. Niznik was and will remain unforgettable—simply a glowing human being who taught as much by his example as by his mind.

**Jennifer Rapp Keller** - January 08 at 01:22 AM

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“ Mr. Niznik nicknamed me "The Enforcer" when I was his student at Central High and was the reason I studied chemistry in college. What an incredibly beautiful life! Prayers to the Niznik family.

Toni Otero - January 07 at 10:00 PM

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“ Mr. Niznik occupies a giant space in my heart along with two other teachers at Central who taught us well in there class but much more importantly, prepared us for higher learning and lifelong learning. On one of the first days of class, Mr. Niznik warned us of the danger of breaking a mercury thermometer and taught us now to keep that from happening. Our first experiment requiring said thermometer, I immediatly fumbled and did not melt mine out of a solid and thus learned first hand what he had warned us about.

He was a class act, a model teacher, an inspiring teacher and I have always felt very fortunate to have had such a wonderful teacher.

Many great thoughts and many prayers for Mr. Niznik and the family.

Ben Fredregill

Ben Fredregill - January 07 at 07:48 PM

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“ There are so many people that I know sharing memories about how much Mr. Niznik impacted them on Facebook... that is how I just found out about his passing. I hope he knows how much of an impact he had on so many. He was a very special man and teacher. Personally, I am not sure if I would have strived toward and education in science, had it not been for him, and ai may never have gotten my doctorate degree. Chemistry and math are both very intimidating for many, but like a wise sage, he helped to take that all away, and make it fun. Sending much love and support to all that will miss him!

Renae Moreschini - January 07 at 07:05 PM

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“ Aww Great Teacher. Think of him often.

He was my Alfred Nobel and Armstrong was my Albert Einstein. Such fun classes.

Learned more from them in high school than I learned in college science 🧪 📖

Our Condolences

**Brian Pearson** - January 07 at 06:02 PM

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“ I was lucky enough to have Mr. Niznik for Chemistry at Central. He was always so happy and always had a smile on his face. He brought Chemistry to life. What a great, kind man!

**hilary munoz** - January 07 at 11:38 AM

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“ I had Mr. Niznik for chemistry in the mid 1970's. Although I did dismally, I still enjoyed his class because he was such an intelligent and kind person. My condolences to the family. May he rest in peace.  
Mary Kay Deverich

**Mary Kay Deverich** - January 07 at 10:20 AM

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“ Mr. Niznik was one of my greatest inspirations. He turned me onto Chemistry and because of him and Mr. Armstrong I chose a career of chemistry and physics which led to my double degree in Physics and Chemistry. I became a radio chemist in the nuclear weapons industry and used that chemistry knowledge throughout my career. I just retired this past year and will always owe my excitement and success in chemistry to Mr. Niznick. He always had a smile on his face and encouraged everyone in his class. A truly sad loss to us all. My condolences to his family.  
Barbara Gillespie

**Barbara Gillespie** - January 06 at 11:24 PM



“ Such a great story Barbara! It brought me to tears. Thank you.

**Renaë Moreschini** - January 07 at 07:07 PM

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“ Outstanding and friendly neighbor. Will miss him going by the house on his walks and always greeting a person. RIP Al.

Larry - January 06 at 10:50 PM

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“ Mr. Niznik was a tremendous science teacher at Central. I appreciate how seriously he took his job. He would always greet us at the door and take attendance while we were entering the classroom. He knew how precious our time was and wanted to waste none. When the bell rang, we were off to the races! Thank you Mr. Niznik for helping me appreciate science. I send my deepest condolences to the Niznik family. I'll never forget him.

Tracy Vinci - January 06 at 10:23 PM

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“ I became a better student with an appreciation for the methodology of science that Mr Niznik taught. Thank-you sir for being not only a good teacher but also a kind person.

Keith Watkins - January 06 at 09:14 PM

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“ Condolences to the family of Mr. Albert Niznik. I am a graduate of Central High School and Mr. Niznik was always a teacher that I looked up to while a student there back in the 60's. I also had the privilege of knowing both he and Mrs. Niznik as an adult. He will forever be remembered in my family for the wonderful person and teacher that he was in our lives. Rest in Peace Mr. Niznik. You will be missed. God Bless and Peace to the Niznik family.

Doris Marie Lucero - January 06 at 08:52 PM

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“ Mr. Niznik, a true legend at Central High School. Along with his compadre on the 5th Floor, Mr. John Armstrong, they probably produced the best science and math students around. I once overheard professors at then-USC/now CSU-P saying that they could always tell students that came "from Niznik and Armstrong from Central. They are light years ahead in what they know and how they perform." I never had the courage to take the classes they taught when I was a student at Central, but had the joy and delight of teaching with them for some years when I came on board the Central Faculty. I loved Mr. Niznik's great smile and genuine kindness and interest in others. And his sense of humor was wonderful. He was truly brilliant, with a twinkle in his eye when he got excited talking with his students and his colleagues. I always welcomed and appreciated any bit of wisdom and advice he extended my way. Like so many others who knew him, in whatever capacity, he will always have my utmost admiration and total respect. My deepest sympathy to Mrs. Niznik and family. Peace be with you and may you be comforted in the difficult days ahead.

**Lois Conatore-Houpe** - January 05 at 07:56 PM