

# Gene Mallove: The Leading Light of Cold Fusion

George Miley

Gene Mallove's untimely death has shocked his many friends and colleagues worldwide. I would like to provide a few brief reflections in his memory. I first met Gene at an early cold fusion conference during the period when he was embroiled in controversy as science editor at MIT. At that time Gene was still mildly skeptical of cold fusion claims. However, as we know, after a careful personal study of existing evidence, he became convinced that the phenomenon is real. Thereafter he never wavered from this view. And as positive data continued to pour in, he grew even stronger in his conviction, despite the many counter claims and vicious controversy. This confidence and courage, stemming from a careful in-depth study of a subject, set Gene apart from many other scientific editors. We all know how the controversy around Gene deepened and led to his founding of *Infinite Energy* a few years after leaving MIT. In addition to courage, this endeavor required a vision, optimism, and deep conviction that seemingly insurmountable obstacles could be overcome.

During the following years I had a number of personal interactions with Gene. Some concerned articles for the magazine, others involved consultations regarding new inventions proposed to him for evaluation. An intense interchange occurred when Gene became convinced that a student-type experimental "kit" was needed to lead interest in cold fusion. Even though I protested that a simple low cost, foolproof kit seemed "impossible," Gene persisted that I was an ideal person to devise one. He even obtained funding for me to study development of such a "kit." When I told him my approach to a kit was not working out (basically the complexity and costs were too much to be practical), he almost became depressed in his frustration. However, within days he bounced back suggesting alternate approaches and redoubled his effort to encourage me to keep trying. Once Gene became really convinced of something, he refused to give up! His unique blend of determination and optimism set him apart and provided cold fusion with the "leading light" needed to survive in the dark days that overtook the field.

Gene was also my most outspoken and vigorous supporter during the time that the DOE retracted my cold fusion research grant after it had gotten through a highly selective peer review panel in the DOE-NERI research program. Unfortunately, the political strength of opponents prevailed, despite Gene's gallant effort to change minds at the DOE.

Gene always attended special cold fusion sessions that I managed to get into ANS meetings and Scott Chubb got into APS sessions. I can still picture him arriving with a heavy wheeled case carrying his video camera, used to document many of the talks. I imagine he had a real problem, including a backache, lugging all that around through airports, but any inconvenience was easily overshadowed by his enthusiasm for getting to the meetings and interacting with attendees. He took great delight in the haring about and interpreting new research results and stood ready to respond to critics in a logical and courteous manner. The excitement he

added to these sessions (and other cold fusion meetings) will be sorely missed by us all.

We all recognize the indispensable role Gene and his magazine *Infinite Energy* have played in keeping the cold fusion light burning during many dark days. The fact that the field has survived and has regained much credibility is in no small part due to Gene's efforts. His example of courage and enthusiasm is a lasting example for us all.

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## Gene Mallove's Magic

Scott Chubb

Gene Mallove had magic because he loved science and words, and he also loved the unknown. His words made people remember that to pursue the truly magical things in science, it is necessary, above everything else, to be open to the unexpected. Five years ago, Gene inspired me to write that "Science is magic that works!", in my comments commemorating the tenth anniversary of the initial announcement of cold fusion. But as opposed to commenting about cold fusion, I was really paraphrasing his philosophy in the most general terms: For science to really work, it has to be magical; and to be magical, it has to involve the unknown and the truth. Science can't be dictated by proclamation. It has to be revolutionary because it has to be alive, vibrant, and altogether genuine. Gene knew this. From beginning to end, he recognized that when true science is done, it can only be like this. When it is like this, it is magical.

In losing Gene, we have lost one of the greatest advocates of science and truth. And we have lost some magic. But we can get at least part of it back if we continue to believe, as he did, in ourselves. We can carry on. We can be alive. We can be magical. If we do try, we can and will live up to our greatest aspirations. Then, in ways that we never thought possible, the magic can occur not only in science but in life.

The magic that Gene gave us lives forever. It involves believing in ourselves and that anything is possible. Whether I was arguing with him about the "truth" of "scientific law" or whether or not this question had no answer, or if some new "discovery" was real or absurd, he inspired me to think about what might be, as opposed to what might not be. He was always a beacon of hope and imagination. Even without him, this beacon lives on. Especially, now, we must feel it and experience it because he would not have allowed us to do anything else. Then, his magic will continue, and it will continue provided we remember him and all that he stood for.

More than anyone I have known, Gene had a way of igniting my deepest feelings about the good things in science: the magic, the idealism, and trying to find the truth. He kindled in me the magical wish that "science" can be all at once alive and work in new and mysterious ways when we let it work. I always will be thankful to Gene for bringing this magic to me and to those of us who knew him. Although he is gone, his spirit lives on, and his magic continues in all of us who knew him. I mourn his loss, but I am truly glad that I knew him. And I celebrate his magic, now and always.