

## **ISACA NJ Tribute to George D.H. Hertzberg**

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with input from Jared Hertzberg PhD

It is with sorrow and gratitude that we share the news of the passing of George D. H. Hertzberg at 86 with our professional colleagues. He was a computer pioneer who help launch the IT Audit & Security professions! His time in the limelight was many years ago. Consequently, he may not be known by some of you, however, his story should be known as he and others like him helped establish the path we are on today.

George was an early innovator in IT Audit and Security and a decades-long member of ISACA and ISSA. Appropriately he was awarded the prestigious Wasserman Award, as well as President's Awards from the ISACA NYM and NJ chapters. He worked directly with Grace Hopper and Joe Wasserman and did groundbreaking training courses before teaching at the college level.

Early in my career, in fact when I was elected the International President of ISACA in 1985, George motivated me to keep publishing and speaking to share my views, for which I have considerable gratitude. As we know well at the Rutgers CAR Lab and ISACA chapters this is how the professional body of knowledge grows, how we grow as professionals and propel others forward. Ultimately, we serve society through trust in IT aka Digital Trust, ISACA's current theme.

George earned a B.S. from the University of Vermont and an M.S. from Stevens Institute of Technology. After learning to program mainframe computers in the early 1960s, he devoted his professional energy to the then-new field of data security and systems audit.

Starting in his twenties, he worked as a computer programmer. Back then there were maybe a few thousand computers in the whole country. It was a niche profession, just the infancy of an industry that now rules our lives. Early mainframe computers used paper tape and punch-card input, and magnetic drum memory.

For a while, Grace Hopper was his boss. In recent decades she's become recognized as a giant who missed her rightful place in part because of her gender. But George always thought of her as enormously impactful and made everyone aware of his view. As the computing industry grew, he found his niche in the IT auditing and data security.

He taught at Baruch College, Fairleigh Dickinson University and NYU, and his independent consulting business had clients including Fortune 500 companies and the U.S. Treasury. A decades-long member of ISACA he joined me and Professor Miklos Vasarhelyi in being honored with the prestigious Wasserman Award.

I looked forward to meeting up with George just to talk. He was a classic raconteur. I found myself storing up my queries for him, and these were always clarifying discussions. He was clever, honest, always open to sharing his thoughts. He had faith in people, and always offered encouragement, even to this kid from Brooklyn!

If there were ever a gap in the conversation, George was always ready with a creative song for the occasion. He wrote an ISACA fight song and after joining me on Long Beach Island, NJ one summer he came back the next year with an LBI song. George was also a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He inspired his son Jared to study science and computing, earn a PhD and eventually join IBM Research.

To George for his contributions to our profession!!  
He will be missed.  
May his memory be a blessing!



Michael P Cangemi with George Hertzberg, fellow ISACA Wasserman Award winners, lifelong friends, and colleagues on his 2022 annual visit Long Beach Island (LBI) NJ.