

Fred Sherman, a brilliant geneticist who popularized the use of baker's yeast, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, as a genetic model system of eukaryotic cells, died on 16 September at the age of 81. Budding yeast are now used at virtually all research centers worldwide, largely due to Fred's efforts and mentoring of many of the leaders in the field. Indeed, Randy Schekman, who shared this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, was introduced to yeast in the Cold Spring Harbor course that Fred taught for 17 summers with his friend and colleague Gerald Fink. Many students and postdoctoral fellows who were trained in Fred's own laboratory also helped shape the field of yeast genetics. Fred taught by example how to think about science, how to do it, and how to enjoy it. He lived life fully, with joy, humor, and dance (ballet), and without ever really separating life from science.

Fred was born in 1932 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Jewish Ukrainian immigrant parents. The family lived in a few rooms behind his father's grocery store. "Freddie" (the name on his birth certificate) grew up thinking he was one of the richest kids in the world because, unlike his friends, he always had enough to eat. Fred graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. in chemistry from the University of Minnesota in 1953. He obtained his Ph.D. with Robert Mortimer at the University of California, Berkeley in 1958, where he was introduced to yeast and then studied with two other founding yeast geneticists, Herschel Roman at the University of Washington in Seattle, and Boris Ephrussi at the Lab Genetique, Gif-sur-Yvette, France. In 1961, Fred took a faculty position at the University of Rochester in the Department of Radiation Biology and Biophysics, where he remained for his entire