



Robert Edward Markinson

December 4, 1961 - April 27, 2020

Robert (Bob) Edward Markinson of Manhattan, NY passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday April 27, 2020 at the age of 58. Robert leaves behind his loving wife of 23 years, Haritini Kanthou; two sisters, Katherine Finkelstein of Staten Island and Denise Markinson of High Bridge, New Jersey, nieces Katherine Okun and Rachael Vallaro, nephews Martin Finkelstein, Karl Finkelstein, Lambros Tsentas, and Christos Tsentas.

An architect by profession, Robert was an avid runner covering on average 35 – 40 miles a week. He picked up running in 2014 and joined Central Park Track Club the same year. After a cardiac incident in February 2016 which resulted in three stents, Robert returned to competitive running two weeks later when he ran the Washington Heights 5K at 22:33, or a 7:16 pace. According to one of the team coaches, Bob was “loved for his determination, grit and love for the team. He will be sorely missed by his training partners and all his teammates.” Bookending his career in competitive running: Bob ran this year’s Washington Heights 5K in 24:05 or 7:45 pace. This was Bob’s final race.

Born December 4, 1961 in Jamaica Hospital, Queens, to Irene and Bob Markinson. Bob spent the first four years of his life in the family brownstone upstairs from his grandparents’ German delicatessen on 7th Avenue in Park Slope, Brooklyn where he formed his earliest memories. The family moved to

a new, spacious home in Staten Island where Bob attended elementary school and Tottenville High School. After graduation, he worked installing fences for Grandview Ironworks on the island and determined that his love for crafting things was really a keen interest in construction and architecture and design. Bob attended the College of Staten Island, where he discovered the music of Phil Ochs in the college library. He later transferred to City College CUNY graduating with a BS in Architecture in 1990. An activist while at school, Bob was a key member of organizations expressing solidarity with the people of Central and South America. He participated in a post-graduation educational exchange with architecture students in Cuba and completed a study on sugar mill architecture and social history.

Bob practiced architecture in junior positions for the first five years of his career, and in 1995 he joined the firm Superstructures and turned his skills to exterior restoration and historic preservation projects. His natural inquisitiveness for how things work drew his attention to the technical elements of building design. The book at Bob's bedside when he died was "Historical Building Construction: Design, Materials & Technology" by Donald Friedman.

In 2001 Bob became a Registered Architect in the State of New York after passing the grueling architecture licensing exam. Interestingly, Structures – a section hard for most people – was the first part of the test Bob passed, with ease. His subsequent career brought him to the roles of Project Architect, Project Manager, and Senior Technical Architect for the firms Richard Dattner and Partners, RKT&B, Pfeiffer Partners, Goshow Architects, and Rogers Marvel Architects.

Bob was dedicated to the idea that spaces should serve people and found gratification when working on the adaptive reuse of a Bellevue Hospital McKim, Mead, and White building to serve as the New York City Administration of Children's Services. It was a project that took up weekends

and late nights and served a population that is among the city's most vulnerable.

His most recent position was as Administrative Architect in the capacity of Senior Technical Architect/Team Leader in the Public Buildings Division – Architecture Unit of the New York city Department of Design and Construction (DDC). In addition to his technical command, Bob was respected for his ability to work with different people. His director at DDC praised him for his mentorship of younger architects and his dedication to the profession.

Bob and his wife, an architecture buff, enjoyed traveling to “look at architecture” – their first trip together was to Chicago, the architectural mecca of North America, where they marveled at the Monadnock, the tallest masonry skyscraper, Richardson's Glessner House, Sullivan's Carson Pirie Scott Department store, and the fabulous modernism of Mies van der Rohe's Crown Hall at IIT campus. Haritini's native Cyprus, with its rich history and building types from Neolithic to on, came next. The long haul to Cyprus provided the foil for stops in European cities – Florence, Rome, Athens, London, Canterbury, Bath and the Cotswolds, Paris and Le Cobusier's Villa Savoy, Amsterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht – were their playgrounds for adventures in art, architecture, and music.

A special treat were two visits to Germany: the first, to the Black Forest, visiting with Bob's maternal grandfather's family, and the 400-year old home where Opa grew up in the tough 1920s. This was actually Bob's second visit to the family and the region: he first visited in the winter of 1984, when the barn integrated into the living quarters still housed the annual hog. During their visit, Bob and Haritini stopped at nearby Frankfurt (where they actually witnessed a road race), and far-flung Berlin. The highlight for them was Hans Scharoun's Berlin Philharmonic with its sailboat exterior and cruise ship interior circulation. In the COVID-19 lockdown, they watched Berlin Philharmonie's

free Digital Concert Hall performances and planned to visit Berlin again to experience a live performance at the hall, once things got back to normal.

Their second Germany visit was to the north, to Lintig, the small town near the border with Denmark where Bob's maternal grandmother was from. They met the last living nephew of Bob's grandmother who recalled receiving care packages that included chocolate, after the war. They stayed in the city of Hamburg and watched a performance of Wagner's "Twilight of the Gods", with its famous hammer-and-anvil sequence – for which, as they were seated right behind that section, they were given earplugs!

He and his wife also travelled to Massachusetts' Berkshire County for The Clark in Williamstown, Mass MoCA in North Adams, and Tanglewood in Lenox. They fell in love with the natural beauty of the region and its unique combination to the arts and started looking for a vacation home. The deal was cinched for the rustic town of Otis, when they visited the proximate Jacob's Pillow and its majestic outdoor stage, a ten-minute drive from a modern house they found. They enjoyed the house this past winter, enveloped in its icy beauty and warmed by the fireplace and had plans for summer swims in nearby ponds.

The lockdown provided the opportunity for Bob to pick up his guitar, and he was engaged in learning the piece "Genesis" from Jorma Kaukonen's YouTube channel. As a younger man, Bob had been part of the Rock en Espanol style, as the guitarist of a group of friends who called themselves Los Tres M (Marx, Music, and Marijuana). He authored his own songs and sang them during their shows, notably at an event on the night Ronald Reagan was elected – needless to say, these songs were songs of protest chronicling the drudgery of low-paying jobs and a repressive, watchful state. His tastes in music ranged from his childhood Motown idols to Bach, and he would spontaneously make up songs while prepping dinner with his wife.

Bob was a wonderful person, kind and generous, with a great sense of humor and a full-bodied laugh, but nothing could challenge his sweet smile and twinkle in his blue eyes. He respected the accomplishments of others and was unstinting in his praise of their work, in his admiration, and in his esteem. He saw the good in every situation and tried to bring others to recognize it, patiently arguing his points. He made others better, for interacting with him. He is missed and loved eternally by his wife.

To honor his memory, in leu of flowers please send contributions to Doctors Without Borders:

<https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/onetime.cfm>

Please enter Bob's wife's information if you decide to send an e-card:

Haritini Kanthou, hkanthou@gmail.com

Cemetery Details

Maple Grove Cemetery

83-15 Kew Gardens Rd
Kew Gardens, NY 11415

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert Edward Markinson*

October 04, 2023 at 06:13 PM



“ *Thank you for sharing your memories and for your kindness. Please email me if you would like a link to the video recording of the remembrance we held for my beloved Bob on Saturday, May 2. hkanthou@gmail.com*

Haritini Kanthou - May 12, 2020 at 12:09 PM



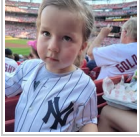
“ *My condolences Haris to you and to Bob's family. I still remember that beautiful pleasant night we spend together in NYC having dinner with you two and Christos. I'm glad I got to meet him. Stay safe Haritini. Big hug!*

Stelios Kammitis - May 05, 2020 at 01:06 PM



Thank you Stelios, Bob always enjoyed seeing you at family gatherings. Stay well.

Haritini Kanthou - May 05, 2020 at 03:40 PM



“ So sorry to hear about this. Bob was a pleasant man. I enjoyed the times I was able to run with him a few years ago.

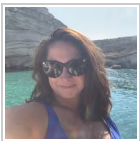


David Fedorenko - May 04, 2020 at 10:56 AM

HK

Thank you, and thanks for sharing the photo!

Haritini Kanthou - May 04, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ My deepest condolences for your loss, Haritini. It was lovely to hear everyone’s stories. Bob was a kind soul, and I hope you find comfort in the memories you shared. Be well, May his memory be eternal.

Penny Kozakos - May 02, 2020 at 05:00 PM

HK

Thank you for the kind words, Penny.

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 07:49 PM

CH

“ My condolences to Haritini and Bob's family. Bob's passing is a loss to our coop and to all his friends and neighbors. It's so wonderful to hear the recollections of all his running group and architecture colleagues-- he was loved. So very sad he is gone.

Cynthia Holden

Cynthia Holden - May 02, 2020 at 04:37 PM

HK

Thank you Cynthia, and thanks for participating today!

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 07:50 PM

AS

“ Robert was the first Architect I worked under when I started working at DDC. Our conversations always provided for an in depth discussion on public buildings, their architecture and potential impact on society. He taught me a lot about the practice and helped me complete my hours toward becoming a licensed architect. His attention to detail, positivity and passion for architecture is something I won't soon forget and will take with me as I grow into my professional career. He will be missed.

Adam Schiffmacher - May 02, 2020 at 04:19 PM

HK

Thank you for sharing, Adam. Helping younger architects was one of Bob's favorite professional activities, he loved seeing people on their way to achieving their goals.

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 07:53 PM

DA

“ Dana lit a candle in memory of Robert Edward Markinson



Dana - May 02, 2020 at 03:58 PM

HK

Thank you for sharing, Dana!

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 08:28 PM

CW

“ *Haritini, Steve and I send our condolences. I fondly remember that day the four of us got together and went to an exhibit of Calatrava's work. I'm glad we got to meet him. Stay safe, and be kind to yourself. I'll keep you close in my thoughts for peace and healing.*

Carol Wierzbicki - May 02, 2020 at 03:47 PM

HK

Thank you, Carol, yes that was such a fun day!

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 07:34 PM

YT

“ *My deepest condolences, Haritini, to you and your and Bob's family. I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to meet Bob, but he sounds like an incredible person. May his memory be a blessing.*

Yan Timanovsky - May 02, 2020 at 03:27 PM

HK

Thank you, Yan, be well.

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 07:35 PM

WW

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Wanda Wang - May 02, 2020 at 01:32 PM

WW

Miss your happy smile. A thousand words won't bring you back but you live in our hearts forever.

Wanda Wang - May 02, 2020 at 01:33 PM

HK

Thank you for sharing, Wanda!

Haritini Kanthou - May 02, 2020 at 01:53 PM

SE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sam Emam - May 01, 2020 at 05:54 PM

HK

Thank you for sharing, Sam!

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 06:50 PM

JS

“ *Bob was an inspiration he never gave up and he always showed up. We would chat at the Armory as we waited for our heats to come around. Occasionally we would catch a train back together from practice. A kind and gentle soul. He will be sadly missed.*

Jonathan Simon - May 01, 2020 at 05:16 PM

HK

Thank you for your kind words, Jonathan.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 05:22 PM

 David
Fanfan

“ Every week and sometimes on the weekends, I would see and greet Rob at the YMCA West Side locker rooms. Since 2017 we'd see each other and slowly got to know each other. We mostly talked about running, but he did reveal to me that he worked as an architect for the city, when I talked to him about the difficulty of balancing marathon training and my work in construction. He was always there to listen and our conversations were always friendly. He was very dedicated and disciplined with his running as he would let me know how his workouts went, whether it was after a scheduled Central Park Track Club workout or on an off day or weekend. And I would always check the sign in sheet at the YMCA front desk, if we happen to miss each other. That let me know he remained consistent and dedicated to running. I will certainly miss him and will think about him especially when the Y opens up again.

Rest In Peace my friend

. - David Ulrick Fanfan

David Fanfan - May 01, 2020 at 04:06 PM

HK

Robert mentioned your conversations at the Y, thank you for sharing David.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 05:23 PM

TR

“ After reading Bob's obituary, it all made sense to me. I only met Bob when he joined CPTC. As his coach, I always noticed his attention to detail. He would often talk to me after workouts about the extra stuff necessary to become a stronger runner. The last workout that I gave the team (before coronavirus), I ran the final mile with Bob! He was all alone that day, but his focus was intense! As i ran side by side to bring him home, I could see him stick his chest out, as I kept telling him to run tall. He stood with me and ran his best split of the night! He was thankful to me, but it was I, who was inspired. Here's a guy running all alone and he has this determination to not let up. We talked for 15 minutes afterward and he was thankful to me. But he didn't realize that I was the one who was thankful! Thankful because it was a lesson in determination and grit! He was one of the more gracious people I have ever met. But the lasting impression will always be his smile. He never complained about anything (other than some of my insane workouts - haha) and I just felt a kindred spirit. As I read the obituary, I came to understand why we had such a connection. He was just a genuine and kind heart. There is a special kind of strength in those who never complain, but instead share their joy, which he did through emails to me. He talked about his lovely wife and their trips. I am indeed saddened by his loss. Sometimes, you just want a good spirit to lift you from your own doldrums. I'd go to him for this type of support because it's often so difficult to handle society, with all it's ills. We get a reprieve when we encounter a kind and loving soul, like Bob. I will sorely miss him, but I will keep the image of that hat to the side, as we finished that workout with high knees and dignity.

RIP my friend.

Coach Tony Ruiz

Tony Ruiz - May 01, 2020 at 03:22 PM

HK

Dear coach, Bob thought the world of you, you inspired him just as he did you. We watched "Running Home" just a couple of weeks ago, and what resounded with us was your own big heart. Thank you for your wonderful work with Bob and for your friendship.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 05:31 PM

TR

My deepest condolences. We really did have a quiet and lovely connection. I'm just so saddened and heart broken but my mom told me that I should feel good that I treated him well in life. That only slightly helped to soothe the pain.

Tony Ruiz - May 01, 2020 at 06:08 PM

HK

He loved hearing you calling out at him from the sidelines during a race, he'd always mention it to me when that happened. I think you sometimes called him "Bobbo" :-)

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 08:13 PM

TR

Yes, I did! I'm a Brooklyn kid and I think he liked that type of encouragement! GO BOBBO!

Tony Ruiz - May 01, 2020 at 10:55 PM

JT

“*Bob was a relentless competitor and compassionate member of the team. My deepest sympathies.*”



John Tran - May 01, 2020 at 02:29 PM

HK

Thank you John.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 05:32 PM



“ *Bob had a wonderful spirit and smile. He was always there at the practices and he was someone that helped get me into going to the CPTC workouts. He reminded me of a coach at times because he was so great at keeping the pace when we did intervals and he would share our splits after the workout. He encouraged me so much-- he was the friendly face at practice and through the miles. I liked running with Bob because he had a lot of different interests and sometimes he shared information about buildings or history or his travels and I appreciated that. He was a big supporter of CPTC and very inclusive. He always welcomed new people at the workouts and cheered on his teammates. What a kind person and bright light. Thanks for being there, Bob- really going to miss you. My deepest condolences to his wife and family.*

Kim Burke - May 01, 2020 at 02:11 PM

HK

Kim, thank you -- follow his lead, as I will through the rest of my life.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 05:34 PM

MM

“Bob was such a force of kindness in spirit and actions. As a teammate, he welcomed me graciously when I joined CPTC in 2016. He was also there to chat before and after races and workouts, lending words of encouragement or commiserating on how best we felt. I'm thankful that I was able to cheer Bob on in what would be his last race, the NYRR Wash Heights Salsa & Blues 5k. He had such drive heading up his last hill and I screamed after him to push. “Go Bob, get after it!”

My deepest condolences to his family.



Michael Moffitt - May 01, 2020 at 12:22 PM

HK

Thanks for sharing your interaction during the Coogans race, Michael!

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 12:42 PM

HL

“Let me echo the sentiments of my club members. I've known Bob almost since the first day he walked onto the track as a new member of CPTC. We often trained and raced together. Always a smile and kind word. A fine, gracious human being in all ways. Gave 100 per cent on and off the track. He will be sorely missed. Hal Lieberman

Hal Lieberman - May 01, 2020 at 11:27 AM

HK

Thank you, Hal--Bob spoke of you often.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 11:51 AM

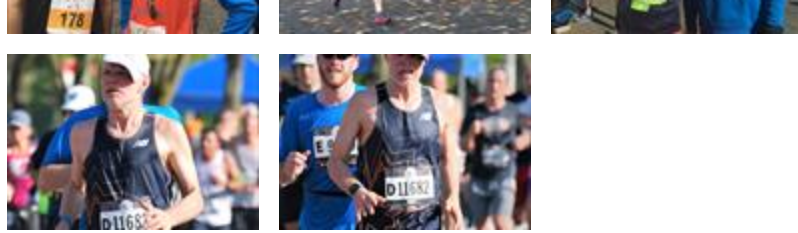
DK

“ Writing this remembrance of Bob feels a bit presumptuous - he was a teammate, a neighbor and, I daresay, a friend, but I only knew him for a relatively short period in his life. Still, even if I only knew him through the Central Park Track Club, this cross-section into who he was has left a lasting impression nonetheless.

Bob Markinson was a genuinely good-willed, optimistic and kind person. This was reflected in every interaction he and I had in the roughly four years I knew him. He was always quick to lend encouragement if it was needed, and equally quick to laud others' accomplishments, be it a huge PR or just the completion of a workout. His relationship to running was perhaps as sound as that of anyone on our team - he was competitive and demanding of himself, but recognized that effort and consistency were more important than any one result. (Des Linden's now popular mantra, "Keep showing up," comes to mind.) Perhaps most noticeable, however was his sincere positivity. Anyone who saw him at workouts or races can attest to this - while many of us (myself included) can get pre-race jitters or go inside our own head and put up a wall of stoic seriousness before a race or major workout, Bob's demeanor would always, and almost exclusively point to how happy he was to be there. A quick hello from him was all it took for his calm yet upbeat spirit to lift yours.

Being that we lived within a half mile of each other, Bob would check in with me the day before a race at Van Cortlandt Park to see if I needed a ride, even if he didn't know whether I was racing or not. He gave me a ride to and back from those XC races numerous times. The first thing he'd do when I got into his car would be to switch the music to the Classical station, because he knew that's what I liked. This and countless other "small" gestures of courtesy, and indeed, kindness, will remain Bob's legacy for myself and, I suspect, for everyone on our team.





Dmitriy Krasny - May 01, 2020 at 11:23 AM

HK

Thank you for the wonderful photos, Dmitriy!

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 11:52 AM

JS

“*Bob was always smiling, always positive and a joy to be around. I looked forward to seeing him at practices because he injected a motivating vibe to get us moving. He will be missed so much. My deepest sympathies to Bob's family. Much Love, Judy Stobbe*”



Judy Stobbe - May 01, 2020 at 10:53 AM

HK

Thank you so very much for your kind words and photo, Judy!

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 11:07 AM



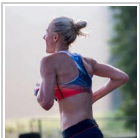
“ Bob was one of my training partners. He always reached out before practice to see who of us would be going. He was encouraging, supportive and cheerful even on days when I was struggling. We would often take turns leading intervals with him always finishing faster. He was a team mate in the true sense of the word. I know we will all miss his indomitable spirit and good cheer.

Ivy Bell - May 01, 2020 at 10:52 AM

HK

Thank you Ivy, Bob spoke about your group and I was fortunate to have you as his running partner. -- Haritini Kanthou

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 11:06 AM



“ Anyone who took the time to get to know Bob Markinson knew he was a terrific human being. Coach Devon Joan Martin of Central ParkTrack Club said it perfectly in her note to the team - “We all loved his determination, grit and love for the team. He will be sorely missed by his training partners and all his teammates.”

I always admired his courage, work ethic, support, and friendliness. He was very kind to me. I'm glad to have known Bob. My condolences to family and loved ones. ☐

Amy Kvilhaug - Friend and teammate

Amy Kvilhaug - May 01, 2020 at 10:40 AM

HK

Amy, thank you so much for your kind remembrance of Bob.

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 11:08 AM

SH

I consider myself fortunate to have had my path cross Bob's. He was a wonderful training partner (Swift of foot, abundantly Kind of heart and a very caring Soul).

He often waited on cold dark winter evenings after our Armory workout to accompany me to the Subway insuring my safety Always the perfect gentleman looking out for a fellow teammate.

After our last workout in March at Columbia Track Sue Pearsal,Ivy Bell, Judy stobbe,Bob and I did our cooldown and marveled at the huge full moon which hung low and heavy in the crisp night sky as if we could just reach up and touch it.

Bob commented how beautiful!

These moments will remain with me forever!

My condolences to Haritini and Bob's Family.

Sherrel Harmon

Sherrel Harmon - May 01, 2020 at 04:26 PM

HK

Dear Sherrel, thank you so much for sharing, keep the wonderment!

Haritini Kanthou - May 01, 2020 at 06:58 PM