

Albert Pessos last few weeks in Germany before his death

Author Serge Sulz

Al had just finished a workshop at the CIP Academy in Munich. He wanted to head for another destination in Europe. Then I received the message that he is acutely ill, cannot breathe and is so weak that he cannot get up.

He stayed in the Hotel Rotkreuzplatz, where he always stayed during his workshops in Munich. Opposite is the Red Cross Hospital, where I got him a bed in the cardiology department and where he could be looked after by a specialist team of cardiologists, pulmonologists and oncologists. As a doctor, I was able to find the best possible path together with the clinic doctors.

Next to me there was a PBSP helper team (Noami Klier-Deisenböck, Beate Gottwald and Richard Hofmann), so that he had a lot of visitors and support.

After a few days of intensive diagnostics, it turned out that his state of health did not allow him to fly back to the USA. The transfer to a nearby lung specialist clinic was considered. Since he knew that he was in the best hands with his oncologist in the USA, it seemed most urgent to help him to be able to travel to come back to USA. We found a nice clinic on the Starnberger See where he could stay until one could venture out on a plane. Noami Klier-Deisenböck, who is also a doctor, made sure they were safely transported back to the USA. Lowijs wanted to visit him. I no longer know whether this visit came about.

We then learned that he passed away on May 19, 2016.

He slept a lot. I visited him every day and we had good conversations. He was aware of his illness, but not of the end of his life. But there was something peaceful in the room, a calm that was consistent after all his work. As if he had arrived. Without knowing where he got. Lowijs told about Al's Skype meetings with Diane, who passed away before him. He experienced these two old people like a loving couple or two children who looked forward to each other again and again.

Maria's memories (as part of the helper team): *"I took turns visiting Al and Noemi regularly in the hospital. Lowijs wanted me to take care of him in the hospital – to take care of Höim in addition to Noemi's medical care. I got him three pajamas (I kept the third one for myself, he didn't like it that much). He cut the mangoes, he called them Womangos), which I brought him every time. He enjoyed how we laughed while we cut his hair (Noemi's idea). These are beautiful memories that stay in my mind. Even if he seemed completely absent at times. Then he said he still has so much on his mind that should be realized. At the time you also said that Al was lucky that he had me. "*

For me it was a farewell to a loved one who I was allowed to accompany during his stays in Munich for 12 years and where we repeatedly explored ways in which PBSP can become better known (science, conferences, trainings). What emerged from Munich in this way, I wrote down in a documentation (PBSP- I would like to report what we have been doing in Munich (Germany) for many years).