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# Obituaries

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## Antonio Bianco, Who Teased Luster and Light From Diamonds, Dies at 57

By MARGALIT FOX

Called a Stradivari of stones, Mr. Bianco cut some of the world's largest and most unusually colored gems, among them the "Dream," the "Flame" and the "Golden Star."



Safidco USA Inc.

Antonio Bianco cut about half a dozen diamonds of 100 carats or more over his career. He could often "hear" flaws in stones.

## Billy Mays, TV Pitchman, Is Found Dead

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS 17 minutes ago

Tampa police say Billy Mays, the television pitchman known for his boisterous hawking of products such as Orange Glo and OxiClean, has died. He was 50.

## Morton Gottlieb, a Broadway Producer, Dies at 88

By BRUCE WEBER

Mr. Gottlieb was a Broadway stalwart who produced four plays that were nominated for best-play Tony Awards, one of which, "Sleuth," was the winner in 1971.



## Sky Saxon, Lead Singer and Bassist for the Seeds, Dies

By BRUCE WEBER

Mr. Saxon was the mop-haired bass player and front man for the protopunk band the Seeds, whose song "Pushin' Too Hard" put a Los Angeles garage-band spin on the bad-boy rocker image personified by the Rolling Stones.



## T. Scott Cunningham, Seasoned Off Broadway Player, Dies at 47

By WILLIAM GRIMES

Mr. Cunningham was an actor who found comedy in the plight of the lovable loser in Nicky Silver's breakthrough Off Broadway play "Pterodactyls" and Douglas Carter Beane's "As Bees in Honey Drown."



## George K. Fraenkel, Pioneering Chemist, Dies at 87

By DENNIS HEVESI

Dr. Fraenkel was one of several chemists who developed high-sensitivity, high-resolution spectrometers that could track the spin of electrons



### Multimedia



Slide Show

### Notable Deaths of 2009

Remembering Andrew Wyeth, John Updike, Natasha Richardson and others who have died this year.

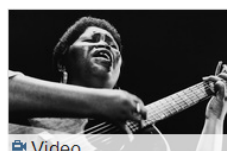
Notable Deaths of 2008 | 2007



Slide Show

### Bea Arthur: That Voice, That Wit

Ms. Arthur, who died at 86, was an accomplished theater actress and singer before she became a television celebrity in midcareer.



Video

### Last Word: Odetta

Odetta became a force of the folk music revival in the 1950s. In the 1960s her renditions of spirituals and blues became part of the soundtrack of the civil rights movement.

Obituary

More Last Word Videos:  
[Art Buchwald](#) | [Stewart Mott](#) | [Dith Pran](#)

### Honoring the Man Who Helped

### Make the Lindy Hop

By GLENN COLLINS

Fourteen-hundred devotees of the swing

### Death Notices

Search Legacy.com for all **paid death notices** from The New York Times.

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## Robert A. Derzon, First Director of Medicare and Medicaid, Dies at 78

By DENNIS HEVESI

Mr. Derzon was an early proponent of universal health care coverage.

## A Star Idolized and Haunted, Michael Jackson Dies at 50

By BROOKS BARNES

Michael Jackson, 50, who went from boy wonder to global pop superstar to sad figure haunted by lawsuits, paparazzi and failed plastic surgery, died Thursday in a Los Angeles hospital.

- [Share Your Thoughts and Photos](#)
- [Times Topics: Michael Jackson](#)
- [Readers React](#)
- [Interactive Timeline: Michael Jackson's Career](#) | [Slide Show](#)
- [The Passing of a Pop Icon](#)

• [Back Story With The Times's Ben Sisario](#)



## Farrah Fawcett Dies of Cancer at 62

By SUSAN STEWART

Ms. Fawcett was an actress, television star and pop-culture phenomenon whose good looks and signature leonine hairstyle influenced a generation of women.

- [Slide Show](#) | [Post a Comment on ArtsBeat](#)
- [Appraisal: A Sex Symbol Who Never Stopped Trying to Be More](#)

## Betty Allen, Opera Singer and Educator, Dies at 82

By MARGALIT FOX

Ms. Allen was an American mezzo-soprano who transcended a Dickensian girlhood to become an internationally known opera singer and later a prominent voice teacher and arts administrator.

## Jerri FitzGerald, Who Treated Herself at South Pole, Dies at 57

By DENNIS HEVESI

Breast cancer recurred in Dr. FitzGerald whose treatment was guided via computer for months in 1999 until a rescue plane was able to land.

## T. Scott Cunningham, an Off Broadway Stalwart, Dies at 47

By WILLIAM GRIMES

Mr. Cunningham was an actor who found comedy in the plight of the lovable loser in Nicky Silver's breakthrough Off Broadway play "Pterodactyls" and Douglas Carter Beane's "As Bees in Honey Drown."

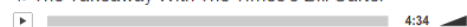
## Ed McMahon, Top Second Banana, Dies at 86

By RICHARD SEVERO

Mr. McMahon was Johnny Carson's affable sidekick on "The Tonight Show" for nearly 30 years.

- [Ed McMahon Remembered](#): [Video](#) | [Slide Show](#)
- [Times Topics](#)

• [The Takeaway With The Times's Bill Carter](#)



## Shelly Gross, Producer for Broadway and Suburbs, Dies at 88

dancing style gathered in Manhattan to honor the late dancer Frankie Manning, hailed as the Master of Swing.

### From the Archives

#### Helen Keller, Symbol of Courage, Dies at 87

(June 1, 1968)

#### Andres Segovia, Master Guitarist, Dies at 94

(June 2, 1987)

#### Robert F. Kennedy, Heir of the New Frontier, Dies at 42

(June 6, 1968)

#### J. Paul Getty, Who Amassed Billions, Dies at 83

(June 6, 1976)

#### Satchel Paige, Black Pitching Star, Dies at 75

(June 8, 1982)

#### Louis L'Amour, Chronicler of West, Dies at 80

(June 10, 1988)

#### John Wayne, Actor, Dies at 72

(June 11, 1979)

#### Martin Buber, Jewish Philosopher, Dies at 87

(June 13, 1965)

#### Benny Goodman, King of Swing, Dies at 77

(June 13, 1986)

#### Kate Smith, All-American Singer, Dies at 79

(June 17, 1986)

#### Ethel Barrymore, One of Stage's 'Royal Family,' Dies at 79

(June 18, 1959)

#### Sir William Golding, Author, Dies at 81

(June 19, 1993)

#### David O. Selznick, Producer of 'Gone With the Wind,' Dies at 63

(June 22, 1965)

#### Judy Garland, Star of Stage and Screen, Dies at 47

(June 22, 1969)

#### Dr. Jonas Edward Salk, Father of Polio Vaccine, Dies at 80

(June 23, 1995)

#### Grover Cleveland, 22nd President, Dies at 71

By DENNIS HEVESI

Mr. Gross brought a broad spectrum of entertainment to suburban theaters along the East Coast and also produced more than a dozen Broadway shows.

[Jean Dausset, Nobel Laureate, Dies at 92](#)

[Heyward Isham, a Negotiator With Hanoi, Dies at 82](#)

[Ralf Dahrendorf, Sociologist, Dies at 80](#)

[Wayne L. Horvitz, 88, Labor Mediator, Dies](#)

[Frank J. Low, Who Helped Drive Field of Infrared Astronomy, Dies at 75](#)

[Ali Akbar Khan, Sarod Virtuoso, Dies at 87](#)

[John Houghtaling, Inventor of Magic Fingers Vibrating Bed, Dies at 92](#)

[Robert Pamplin Sr., Ex-Head of Georgia-Pacific, Dies at 97](#)

[Hanne Hiob, Brecht's Acting Kin, Dies at 86](#)

[Khaled Hussein, Who Helped Hijackers, Dies at 73](#)

## Multimedia

### Notable Deaths of 2008

Those who passed from the scene last year included the folk singer Odetta, the actors Heath Ledger and Charlton Heston, and the writers David Foster Wallace and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.



### The Lives They Lived

For 2008, an unabashedly idiosyncratic collection of profiles of 24 very different lives, all memorably lived.



• [The Music They Made](#)

[at 71](#)  
(June 24, 1908)

**Nancy Mitford, Satiric Novelist, Dies at 68**

(June 30, 1973)

**Lillian Hellman, Playright and Author, Dies at 79**  
(June 30, 1984)

## Talk to the Newsroom

### Obituary Writer



Bruce Weber answered

questions about the pleasures and difficulties of covering death.

• [Talk to the Newsroom: Obituaries Editor Bill McDonald](#)



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