



Bart Ingraham

October 16, 1947 - November 5, 2020

Bart Ingraham, 73 of Suttons Bay passed away peacefully at his home after a brief but valiant battle with Pancreatic Cancer.

Bart was born on October 16, 1947 in Grand Rapids to the late Alvin Louis and June Louise (Williams) Ingraham. Bart was raised in a hardworking country farm where he drove tractor at 9 years young, planted and harvested each season and tended animals for Kent County 4-H. This set him forth into a life of adventures.

Bart graduated from Rockford High School in Rockford, Michigan in 1965 as a “Great Guy to Know” and homecoming King which always made him blush to mention. He set his sights high, academically and athletically, and attended Colorado State University with a full Football Scholarship.

Bart met his creative, smart, gifted, darling future lifelong wife, Gail G. Hewitt in Z205; a zoology class at Colorado State University. The rest as they say is history. They married on April 3, 1971 in Englewood, Colorado.

In their younger years they served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. Together with their gifts, talents and vision they originated, designed, owned and operated Bellwether Gardens on Shady Lane for 30 years.

Bart was impassioned with great music both as a studied listener and avid performer with a deep, rich, confident baritone or bass. He performed around the area with several groups enthusiastically. He was a gifted sculptor and greatly appreciated all forms of art. He was also involved with Old Town Playhouse for over 30 years.

He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and fellow artists and gardeners.

Bart is survived by his wife Gail “GG”; brother Brian (RuthAnn) Ingraham and Sister Helen (Dave) Lundberg and five beloved nephews and three endeared nieces. He and Gail were

Great Uncle Bart and Great Aunt GG to 11 precious Nephews and Nieces whom will always know of their generous legacies.

Bart was preceded in death by his older sister Linda, tragically in 1979.

A celebration of his life will be held on Friday, November 20, 2020 at 3:00 at the Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home with visitation beginning one-hour prior. For those not able to attend in person, visit www.rjfh.tv to watch the live stream.

Memorial contributions in his honor may be directed to the Old Town Playhouse.

Events

NOV
20

Visitation

02:00PM - 03:00PM

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

NOV
20

Celebration of Life

03:00PM

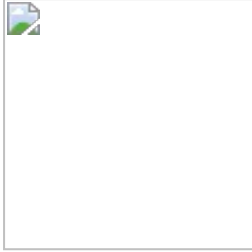
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



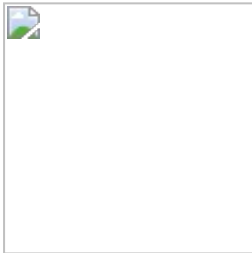
“ 1 file added to the album Celebration of Life



Reynolds Jonkhoff - November 20, 2020 at 03:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Slideshow



Reynolds Jonkhoff - November 20, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear about Bart. He leaves a big hole in the hearts of our community. Our thoughts and prayers are with Gail and his family.

Elaine Mikowski - November 26, 2020 at 11:37 AM



“ We send our most sincere condolences to Gail and all the family on your loss of Bart. We didn't have the opportunity for close contact over the years, but Bart would pop into our lives every so often because of his many and varied interests and pursuits. As fellow Leelanau Co agricultural people, we might see Bart at some ag-related event. Or in an OTP production. Or singing onstage somewhere. No matter where or when, as others have said in their tributes, Bart's infectious smile and laughter, his genuine interest in others, and his warm personality always made one feel that we had known each other forever. And Gail most always was right there at his side, with her calm and quiet smile.

Also, in reading the obit, it was enlightening to see how many other talents Bart had throughout his life -- football, sculpting, giving of himself in the Peace Corps and AA, to name a few. Most of us would envy such a diverse existence, but for Bart, it was just who he was, playing out his God-given facets.

We're so sorry to read that he had to suffer at the end of his too-short life. May he now rest in peace. Our world is a better place because of Bart.

Sending fond thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,

Judy and Glenn LaCross

Judy LaCross - November 24, 2020 at 02:02 PM



“ Today we hiked the Walk of Art Sculpture Gallery in the 15-acre Elk Rapids Day Park. Bart was on our mind as we viewed his lovely wood and marble sculptures. His Owls in Flight carved from black walnut was especially intriguing. Bart was a multi-talented man, gone too soon. We enjoyed visiting with him at his and Gail's Bellwether Gardens over the years and seeing him singing and performing on stage at Old Town Playhouse. RIP Bart .

Barbara Raehl - November 22, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ Oh Bart! My heart hurts.

But I am comforted by knowing you rest in peace after giving yourself so fully to life.

I worked for Bart and Gail at Bellwether in the summers from when I was 13 until I was 20. Bart was so different from every other adult man I had known up until that time. He gave me a new perspective on people and life that helped shaped the adult I am now.

After a hard, hot day working in the gardens, Bart would crack a beer and give me a sideways grin asking "You want one?", which was immediately followed by GG shooting over 'the look' and something along the lines of "Bart! She's fifteen!" I have so many memories and I am so grateful for that time. (Thank you to the person that posted a picture of their beautiful door!)

Sending love and condolences to GG and their extended family.

Becky (Ard) Bunn

Rebecca Bunn - November 22, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ I met Gail and Bart in college. Gail lived across the hall and we got together a lot to play guitar. I got to know her boyfriend Bart as a passenger on car trips back and forth from Michigan to Colorado (he and a friend would drive straight through and my job was to talk to the driver to keep him awake). When Gail and Bart settled in Michigan, I'd get up to see them once in a blue moon, mostly staying in though by Christmas letters. They were the type of friends who, no matter how much time had passed, fell right back in the old relationship when we finally got back together. These were the only friends from CSU I kept in touch with and I'm still reeling to think Bart is gone. They hold and will continue to hold a special place in my heart.

janet Eshenroder - November 22, 2020 at 10:37 AM



“ I am saddened to hear the news of Bart's passing and my heart goes out to Gail and family. I had the pleasure of twice working with Bart on productions of Escanaba in Da Moonlight. I'll never forget the unspoken communication he and I had live on stage when we realized our fellow cast member replaced what was supposed to be tea with real whiskey. His laughter, spirit and work was such a joy to be around. A little part of Bart will always be with me when life replaces my tea with hard-core whiskey.

TJ Ewing - November 21, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Bart in Iran 1969



Judy - November 20, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Judy - November 20, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ Judy Johnson and Bart as IFYE delegates to Iran 1969

Judy - November 20, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ Bart and I first met when he was the helpful hardware man at Ace near my house.

Years later, we joined forces in the NMC Chamber Singers and Canticum Novum where he was known for his Bass - Baritone voice, his remarkable commentary on the texts of our songs during rehearsal as well as narrating during our concerts. Bart was also known for his warmup massages at rehearsal, which recipients could feel for days afterward.

Bart and I roomed together on several choir tours and was a great companion on the road. His instantly recognizable booming laugh assured us we were all in the same family and about to have a great time.

Bart and Gail, each fabulous visual artists in their own right, sought to drape the world in beauty, to borrow a phrase from Saul Bellow's Humboldt's Gift. I'm privileged to have a limestone sculpture of Bart's which stands as a remembrance of my mother - and now Bart as well.

Bart, you draped our lives with beauty by your presence and will be remembered forever.

Steve and Mary Louise Weldon

Steve Weldon - November 20, 2020 at 12:35 PM



“ sad.....thank you both for the encouragement, love and kindness....you touched many loves-mine included.....

Christine Campbell - November 19, 2020 at 06:17 AM



“ and lives :)

Christine - November 19, 2020 at 06:17 AM



“ I worked with Bart on so many shows at Old Town Playhouse. I danced with him in Guys and Dolls and directed him in Assassins. That role was so unlike him yet he was so convincing. Such a wonderful warm man, just a delight.

Terry Lawrence - November 18, 2020 at 04:16 PM



“ I had the pleasure of working at Bellwether with Bart & Gail during my high school years. I remember Bart for his jovial and vibrant energy, his utter adoration of Gail, and the magical black-gold compost he made. In later years I came to understand the many ways in which Bart was a deeply creative artist. He was a gem of a man, truly one of a kind. Sending my love to Gail.

Jane Cookman Metzger - November 17, 2020 at 08:11 AM



“ My husband and I met Bart at Colorado State University. We continued our friendship ever since. Bart was a vrol.sman at our wedding . My husband ,John, was a groomsman at Bart and Gail's wedding. We have been able to get together many times over the last 50+ years. Our hearts were broken upon hearing if Bart's death.

Leslie and John Sepich - November 16, 2020 at 08:11 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Tony and Nancy Miller - November 16, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ We are very sorry, Gail, for your loss. We first met when Bart and you did some landscaping work on our first home on Lee Point road in the late 1980's. Bart joined our Crackerbarrel discussion group in Northport for a few years. We felt bad when we learned of your house fire a few years back. Last saw both of you at the Sutton Bay blood draw office a year ago while I was there because of my treatment for oropharyngeal cancer. Always enjoyed our visits and talking with Bart. He will be missed.

Bill and Suzanne Hoff
Sutton's Bay

Bill & Suzanne Hoff - November 16, 2020 at 02:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Gene Hoth - November 15, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ Bart Ingraham and friend 2018 My business partner and whimsical neighbor of 50 years
Gene Hoth

Gene Hoth - November 19, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ I met Bart through singing and loved the connection Bart always had to the music and text. I loved his creativeness in art and his wizardry with gardens. He was the best kind of friend a person could have, and he was a friend to everyone. He was always ready with a hug and a smile, and who could ever be in a bad mood when Bart was present? Unlike Bart, I find it hard to come up with the right words...the best I can do is "I will miss you so very much, my friend".

Mary Ann Niesen - November 14, 2020 at 10:24 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Mary Ann Niesen - November 14, 2020 at 10:17 AM



“ Always laughing and smiling, Gail and Bart were terrific !

greg martin - November 13, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Wendy Ballard - November 13, 2020 at 12:51 AM



“ The infamous dragon!

Wendy - November 13, 2020 at 12:50 AM



“ 49 files added to the album Memories Album



Lyza June - November 12, 2020 at 11:15 PM



“ Bart was a larger than life personality with a big smile and quick to laugh and a tender sweet love for Gail. So grateful we were able to reconnect after our move back to Suttons Bay. Sending love and light to Gail and the rest of his family.

Mary Kropp-Benton - November 12, 2020 at 08:09 PM



“ I am so very sorry, Gail. Bart was incredible and Daniel always loved chatting with him about your sailing adventures. I hope they now both are reminiscing in Heaven. I can't ever remember seeing him without a smile. He will be greatly missed. Sending you love...Lil

Lillian Mahaney - November 12, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ We fondly remember Bart from catamaran racing on the bay in the early 80s, becoming neighbors in 1988, attending their perennial garden classes and their business regularly as well as singing together in the Leelanau Community choir for many years. Bart was a very special person and will be missed.

John and Laura Laubhan - November 11, 2020 at 07:46 PM



“ A Light here on Earth has gone out....
But in Heaven there is a new star whose Light will never dim.
Our thoughts are with you,
Mike& Sharon

Dakoske's - November 11, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ If anyone could light up a room just by walking in, that was Bart. Add to that his sense of humor and he could have a room full of volunteers laughing, making the work light and the day brighter. We shared a love of books, especially science fiction, loaning our favorites and learning of new ones to read, new ideas to explore. Bart's art, expressed through his sculpture and gardens, remains, continuing to bring memories of this multi-talented man and giving us joy. He is missed.

Marv Grahm and Christine Hauke

Christine Hauke - November 11, 2020 at 11:11 AM



“ Years ago, with a friend, I took an NMC EES garden course with Bart and Gail. While I learned a great deal, what I really remember is Bart's spark; his humor, joy and practicality. I was fairly new to the community at the time and Bart's friendship made me feel truly welcomed. I will always associate joy of the natural world with Bart. Peace & love to Bart's family and friends.
Susan Odgers

susan odgers - November 10, 2020 at 02:55 PM



“ Oh Bart, how ever are we going to get by without your ready smile and your joy of life.

Fran Perkett - November 12, 2020 at 10:53 PM



“ I sang with Bart for many years, and of course we were instant friends, like he was with everyone he met. I called myself the "Bart Wrangler" because I often sat next to him in Canticum Novum, and tried to help contain his spontaneous and sometimes boisterous fits of joy during rehearsals. I've never met anyone with more passion for choral music, and I will always miss his kindness, sense of humor, and love for music. He was one of a kind.

Trisha - November 16, 2020 at 09:52 AM



“ Wow what can i say,Bart was always there to help anyone in need! His love for Gail shown bright and his other love's of singing, artistry, and friends and the energy he put forth made him a very special man! His infectious laugh and smile will always be with us.

Alan Harold - November 18, 2020 at 10:12 AM



“ My heart sank when I heard. Heartfelt blessings to Gail and his extended family.

I was lucky enough to know Bart (and Gail) for the last several years through my parents, Todd and Jan Stone, who were steadfast friends of Bart and Gail since they move to Traverse City in 2009. I believe they met through a mutual love of plants and landscape which fertilized their friendship to blossom beyond measure! They always shared cuttings of plants, and if I did not know better, would try and outdo each other for the best landscaped yard, sheer number of plants, interesting colors or textures in their individual yards. Bart had the upper hand with his sculptures but his passion/memory drives them now and will forever.

Bart opened his home and heart to me through his works of art, his desire to continually learn and read, and his work ethic was unmatched! What a gifted and talented man with a zest for life that is to be admired. His heart was so big, his smile is known by all and his laugh was contagious! Bart truly love life and everyone was a friend; especially if it involved a visit to the local ice cream shop, any time, any where!

Love ya Bart! You will be sorely missed but not forgotten! We will see each other again at the local creamery high in the sky! A life to be celebrated! Thanks for the memories and we only knew each other for a short time but what an impact!

Rodney Smalligan - November 20, 2020 at 10:13 AM



“ Heartfelt condolences to Gail and Bart's extended family.

I met Bart shortly after we moved to Suttons Bay in 2013. He was very welcoming as we both sang in NMC's Canticum Novum Choir. I remember fondly our rehearsals and concerts. It was later that I learned of his sculpting talents and the depth of his love of literature and the arts in general.

His personality was a large part of whatever group or project he was a part of and will be sorely missed. I am so thankful that we were able to sing Happy Birthday to Bart in October.

I will be thinking of you Bart and know that you will be with us in spirit as we sing again as a choir.

Rest well my friend.

Blessings,

Dave & Sue Chrostek

Dave Chrostek - November 20, 2020 at 03:03 PM