

Reed Walter Zitting

May 11, 1940 - May 23, 2022

Reed Walter Zitting, age 82 of Mesick, Michigan died at home on May 23, 2022.

He was born to Alford and Goldie (Hossner) Zitting in Ashton Idaho. He joined his older brothers Dale and Roy and older sister, Audrey growing up in the small community of Greentimber.

His life was full of adventures starting with his childhood in Idaho on the family potato farm and experiencing all that the wilderness had to offer including mountain climbing. Forever creating art through theater, woodwork, photography or tinkering with machinery he was always happiest when sharing his passions with others.

He moved to Michigan as an adult with his young family to teach at Interlochen Arts Academy. He also taught at Pathfinder School and the Children's House in Traverse City. He did a stint as the first director of the City Opera House, and was part of the Old Town Playhouse in its early days.

As a teacher he openly offered friendship, guidance and support to his students and colleagues. In return he felt he received an immeasurable depth to his life. He loved meeting people and always felt he gained more from relationships than what he ever expected from people. Above all, Reed truly believed in and lived unconditional love.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved sister, Audrey Peterson.

He is survived by his brothers Dale (Ann and their daughter Pam) and brother Roy (Rex). His daughter Shaun who he cherished. His wife Sandra Hintz and her daughter Jennifer Patanella. Jennifer's family, Joe (husband) and children Angela, Jacob and Carson who loved their grandpa dearly. Sister Audrey's family; Bruce (husband) and their children Sheila, Lori, Eugene and Roxanne. His many in-laws and their families, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews

We cherish the time we had with Reed and will always miss him.

A memorial service will be held at 11am on Saturday, June 4, 2022 at The Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home with a visitation held one hour prior. The service will be live streamed at www.rjfh.tv.

Memorial contributions in Reed's name may be directed to the The Gardens at the Children's House fund.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home

305 Sixth St

Traverse City, MI 49684

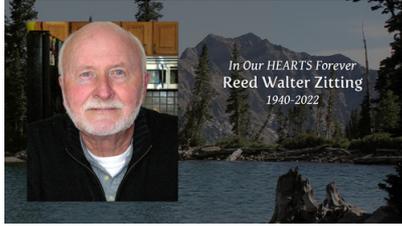
info@reynolds-jonkhoff.com

<http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/>

Tribute Wall



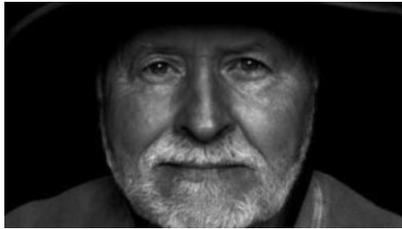
“ *Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Reed Walter Zitting*



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - June 04 at 01:38 PM



“ *Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Reed Walter Zitting*



Reynolds Jonkhoff Funeral Home & Cremation Services - May 27 at 10:28 AM



“ *Send BEAUTIFUL Flowers Locally to the family of Reed Walter Zitting. Express your condolences, giving comfort and support. Click here to view selections on our website*

Send Flowers - May 25 at 10:19 AM

“ Reed was my teacher at The Pathfinder School for two years, but my friend for 45 years. When I first met Reed in 1975 at age 16, he was my drama teacher. We read Greek tragedies and comedies; we read Ibsen, Chekhov, and Tennessee Williams. He directed our disparate talents in shows that were fun and memorable. I was hooked to drama and literature after that-- so much so that I became a speech and English teacher.

I didn't see Reed as often as I would've liked over the next 45 years since, until recently, I lived in Texas and then California, but we corresponded frequently. First, by letters, then email. We wrote about our lives -- families, gardening, work, but we also debated the news of the day, or politics and religion. He always forced me to think, to defend my opinion or idea. I was always my most genuine self with Reed. i will miss our banter.

Reed wrote about the love and pride he had for his daughter, Shaun. He wrote of the beautiful gardens he and Sandra cultivated over the years. He wrote of his work at the Montessori school and his wonderful grandchildren who once attended there. He discussed his photography and projects he was working on. He even convinced me to try this "new" technology called digital photography. Once I did, the Pentax was relegated to the drawer.

Reed influenced many aspects of my life, as teachers often do, but through our lifelong friendship, he left an indelible imprint and helped me become the human I am.

Tammy Medell Gardner - June 04 at 07:05 AM

SB

“ I am not sure that I can adequately express the deep loss I feel with the hole in my heart Reed leaves behind. He’s been a figure of mentorship, wisdom, passion, kindness, patience and unconditional love for over 50 years. At each age I reconnected with him I found him to be the same person/spirit I met as a teenager but also an ever evolving adult still filled with curiosity, healthy skepticism and always hope no matter how despairing things seemed. I loved being around him whatever the occasion. As I became a theatre artist and teacher, I continued to be able to talk to him about the joys and disappointments that we go through with a “life in the theatre”.

He always kept his humor. He told the truth. He loved deeply and he was loyal.

There’s a huge hole in my heart that I am in despair losing Reed. I’m not the only one. His reach is far and wide and very deep.

Reed deserved far more recognition than he got. He wasn’t a braggart or someone who had to toot his own horn. But those of us that were touched deeply by his time on this earth will never forget the gifts he gave us that continue to shape and form our lives and our moral compass.

I love you always Reed. That’s all there is to it. Thank you for everything throughout these many years. Til we meet again, rest easy and feel the love that surrounds you.

Susan Brashear- IAA drama student 1965-70

susan Brashear - June 04 at 12:21 AM

LP

“ I knew Reed from Interlochen Arts Academy in 1971, but I got to know him better after 2009 during IAA alumni gatherings in Traverse City. He loved music and asked my music band to play for an alumni reception at his house. So many of my IAA classmates love him and will really miss him. He is a real treasure.

Lawrence Probes - June 03 at 10:32 PM



“ Solace was purchased for the family of Reed Walter Zitting.



Send Flowers - June 02 at 03:36 PM

JO

“ For those that know me, they understand how much luck I have had in my life. Having Reed and Sandra for neighbors over the last 22 years is yet another example of my good fortune.

I first met Reed shortly after purchasing the property next to his and Sandra's. The first thing I noticed about him was his distinguished voice and deliberate, eloquent speech. Hearing his plans to do most of the building of his own house impressed me too; "this guy likes a challenge and has a LOT of confidence in his abilities" is what I first learned about him. He made good on his plans - as I suspect he did with most of them in his long life. I admired how he seemed to take things more in stride than most people.

He was always willing to help me and my family - whether it was loaning a tool or diving in and helping us get started the right way with building projects like installing tongue and groove boards in our home. We also appreciate how he invited our whole family to several of his celebrations and parties; one of which led to my daughter meeting her long-time music instructor and furthering her passion for the wind instruments.

I also enjoyed the talks we had covering many aspects of life - which happened in so many different locations because we were outside so much of the time. He spoke often of how incredibly proud he is of his Wife, Daughter, Daughter and Son in Laws, and Grandchildren.

My condolences and prayers go out to all his family and friends who will be missing his presence, I will be doing the same.

Joe Rosingana

Joe - June 01 at 02:11 PM



“ Lauren Begley purchased a garden stone and bouquet of flowers for the family of Reed Walter Zitting.



Send Flowers - May 31 at 04:22 PM



“ *Nielseniq HR Leadership Team purchased White Reflections for the family of Reed Walter Zitting.*



Send Flowers - May 31 at 03:46 PM

LS

“ *Reed was a giant for so many of us. He instilled a very special idea that we can do creative things, build audacious things, and work together even when it's hard. I've been so fortunate to Reed since 1994 and I'll carry our more recent conversations with me the rest of my life. What a strong, powerful force he was.*

Lesley Skousen - May 29 at 08:42 PM



“ *Dusty Tucker purchased Garden of Reflection for the family of Reed Walter Zitting*



Send Flowers - May 29 at 02:46 PM



“ *Thoughts and Prayers was purchased for the family of Reed Walter Zitting.*



Send Flowers - May 27 at 01:19 PM

BM

“ First of all, this picture of Reed is amazing. And completely embodies his quiet badassery (I know, not really a word...)
I want to share a memory of Reed. It's a hazy memory, because I was very ill while it was all taking place. I was in the hospital at Munson Medical center as a 17 year old at IAA. This was in 1997- when cell phones were few and far between- and my parents happened to be traveling in Europe at the time. I was alone and very sick. Every evening (I was there for weeks before my parents were tracked down in Austria and made their way back to the states), Reed came to see me. He'd help me with my work (as much as I could do), read to me, talk, even feed me. He just tried to restore a sense of normalcy to this very not normal situation. It meant so much. Not only was he a wonderful teacher, artist and mentor- he was just an incredibly good human being who cared about others. I never forgot his kindness (nor did my parents)- but would you believe that Reed, when we got together in 2020...23 years later... hardly remembered! I wasn't offended. I actually wasn't surprised. It was so natural for him to care...to go out of his way to be kind. It wasn't remarkable to him. He said "I'm old and I just don't remember". I know better. He just performed so many acts of kindness in his life- he couldn't keep track of them all.

Betsy Thurmond Matz - May 26 at 09:43 PM

AK

“ Reed was my high school English teacher at Pathfinder school. Because of his care, encouragement, generosity, and patience, I not only learned to believe in myself but he inspired me by showing how important teachers can be. Wanting to follow his example, I went on to be a teacher in Asia for 20+ years and now work at the US Dept of Education. I would Never have even considered this path without having Reed in my life.

Thank you, dear Reed.

Thank you for being a wonderful teacher, a patient adult to a bunch of crazy and confused teens, and the kind of calm and encouraging educator I have strived to be. You changed my life at a pivotal time.

I will forever be grateful to you.

I love you. Rest Well.

Alice 'Aleigh' Kenney - May 25 at 10:35 PM

SO

“ Thinking of Reed and his family.
He was one of our first friends in TC several decades ago.
Peace & love,
Tom Mair & Susan Odgers

susan odgers - May 25 at 07:43 PM