



Tim Gale Lewis

June 9, 1937 - January 5, 2017

Timothy Gale Lewis, 79, of Empire, died peacefully in his home on Thursday, January 5, 2017.

Tim was born on June 9, 1937, in Midland to Floyd and Eva (Lambkin) Lewis. He and his older sister Nancy spent summers in Empire at their grandparents' home, fostering his love for Leelanau County and his extensive family that settled in the area two centuries ago.

A gifted artist since childhood, Tim majored in art at Western Michigan University, graduating with a Bachelor's degree in 1959. After teaching elementary art for several years, he married his college sweetheart, Susanna (Ericksen) Lewis, and moved to Okinawa Japan, where he was stationed in the Army.

In the early 1960's, the couple moved to New York City to pursue careers in the arts. Tim worked for the renowned advertising agency Young & Rubicam, until he was invited by Milton Glaser to join the esteemed Push Pin Studios as a commercial illustrator.

Eventually Tim went free-lance, and started his own successful business, Indelible Inc. Over the next thirty years he created works for well-known international publications such as Time magazine, New York Times magazine, major advertising campaigns, corporate media, record albums, and book covers.

A loving father, Tim raised his family in Park Slope, Brooklyn, in a brownstone that the couple renovated themselves. His two daughters, Alexa (Lewis) Deising, and Aury Lewis cherished their time with him. He was devoted to his girls, instilling strong moral values and a respect for the world around them, and was equally dedicated to his granddaughter, Anya Deising, and grandson, Chase Deising.

Tim retired from the world of advertising and commercial illustration, and returned to his roots in Empire, Michigan, where he built his "gallery house" to live in year round, and house his prolific amount of fine art paintings and collages. He painted daily, and donated to community causes through his artwork, notably creating the designs for the annual Empire Asparagus Festival, The Glen Lake Library, and the Ulster County SPCA in New York. He enjoyed the camaraderie and friendship of fellow artists and neighbors, and was loved and respected in his community.

Per Tim's wish, he will be cremated, with a memorial service taking place this August in

Empire to celebrate his life. Friends and family will be asked to attend. Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with Tim's family at <http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com>. The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Myrna Mushkin Davis - March 08, 2017 at 01:18 PM



“ I've always enjoyed this watercolor by Jim McMullan of Tim's lovely wife Susanna and their new baby, Alexa. We all worked together at Push Pin Studios in the early 1960's. Tim was a delightful person, talented, gentle, kind. His photo looks pretty much as I remember him. My condolences to all his family and friends.

Myrna Mushkin Davis - March 08, 2017 at 01:25 PM



“ I love this; and remember that happy time, so fondly, especially, now: that Susanna has also passed away, so sadly & unexpectedly. Our condolences to all of their family & friends, Peg & Brad Brown

Margaret Brown - January 10 at 04:01 PM



“ I just discovered that Tim has passed away. He was a kind man with great expectations and encouragement for others. I remember Sunday morning artist breakfasts where Tim contributed regularly. When his new home was completed I had the good fortune to share a trip down state to look for contemporary furniture, and to visit the new art department at Western Michigan University, where we had both studied art.

Tim was a great fan of Interlochen Center For The Arts, where he had attended summer camp, I was fortunate to be a resource for reconnecting him to student performances there. Tim had a love for chamber Music, and the symphony. It was an honor to share the world of the arts with him, I am thankful to have reconnected with him on three occasions in 2016. He was an inspirational man and artist! Please keep me informed of the August memorial service. My condolences go out to his daughters and grandchildren.
Doug Gruizenga.

Doug Gruizenga - February 03, 2017 at 01:47 AM



“ Every summer when we are up in Empire, we walk by Lambkin Lane and sneak a peek to see whether Tim is around. It was always so nice to catch up with him in his studio and to have a look at what he was working on.

One of the first times, when I spent nearly two months on my own with our two daughters in Empire, he kindly gave Zoe a felt pen drawing to colour in. It was inspired by Native American motives, with a beautiful symmetry.

We still have it after all these years and with it the memories of spending happy moments with our dear friend Tim, whom we will miss on our walks up Lambkin Lane.

Our sympathies go out to Aury and Alexa, Norm, Anya and Chase and all the friends and neighbours in Empire.

With love,
Anna, Matthew, Zoe, Lea and Julian

Anna E. Jordan - January 13, 2017 at 07:20 AM



“ Over the years, we have loved having Tim to Dunn's Farm for many visits. He and Mom (Patricia) loved talking of the "old days" and are now having a gay old time up in Heaven. We're saddened by his passing. Please keep us informed about the August Memorial
Jim and Sue Dutmers

Jim and Sue Dutmers - January 08, 2017 at 05:57 PM