



Grafton Lee Boehner

October 16, 2018

Grafton “Lee” Boehner, 76, of Grand Lake, passed away peacefully on October 16th, 2018, surrounded by his family at his home in Fort Collins, CO.

Lee was born in Dayton, Ohio, to Wilson Boehner and Dorothy Garlitz and grew up with siblings Claggett and Donna. After attending Orville Wright High School in Dayton, Lee studied art at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He attended the University of Iowa, Iowa City, where he earned a Master of Fine Arts degree and taught printmaking. He later was a professor of printmaking/art at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa.

While attending university, Lee spent his summers working at C-Lazy-U Ranch in Colorado where he met Martha. They were married in 1968, then relocated to Grand Lake, CO in 1976, where Lee worked as a craftsman building homes and custom cabinetry until retiring in 2008. This past August, Lee and Martha celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Lee enjoyed the outdoors and mountain wildlife as evidenced by his hundreds of sketches, paintings, prints and photographs. For over sixty years, Lee played 5-string banjo and sang folk, bluegrass, gospel, and old-timey music.

Lee is survived by his wife Martha, their three children Will (Allison), Nick (Susan) and Rebecca, as well as four grandsons (Paul, Keaton, Noah, Lucas). Lee was characterized by quiet faith, strength and humility, humor, faithfulness and loyalty - we are proud to be part of Lee’s legacy.

A memorial service will be held in Lee’s honor on Saturday, November 3rd, 2018, at 11:30am at Winter Park Christian Church – 274 Ponderosa Trail, Tabernash, Colorado 80478.

Memorial contributions can be made to Mountain Family Center (mountainfamilycenter.org) or Pregnancy Resource Connection

(pregnancyresourceconnection.org). Flowers may be sent to the church.

Events

NOV **Memorial Service** 11:30AM - 12:30PM

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Winter Park Christian Church

274 Ponderosa Trail, Tabernash, CO, US, 80478

Comments



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha Boehner - January 15, 2019 at 02:21 PM



“ Martha Boehner lit a candle in memory of Grafton Lee Boehner



Martha Boehner - January 15, 2019 at 02:18 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha Boehner - January 15, 2019 at 02:16 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha - November 12, 2018 at 10:47 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha - November 05, 2018 at 05:42 PM



“ Early self portrait

Martha - November 07, 2018 at 05:49 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Martha - November 05, 2018 at 05:39 PM



“ Dear Martha:

I write this letter with a great deal of mixed feelings. While I am greatly saddened that I won't be playing music and tennis with my good friend, Lee, I can only celebrate where I believe he has gone! But I am compelled to write you today because I feel it is important for you to hear what a great friend Lee was and how he touched my life.

Several years ago, I first met Lee on the tennis courts at Grand Lake where I had the opportunity to play doubles tennis at the courts near the Grand Lake Golf Course. It made my day when we would play as Lee always displayed cheerfulness, good humor, and, of course, tenacious tennis prowess. And, as we became closer friends, he would share some of his ongoing health challenges. But regardless of his challenges, his character remained the same. I was amazed at the peace he displayed despite his circumstances. That spoke to me many times, and still does.

We also shared many good times playing music with the Grand Lake Folk Music Society on various occasions down in Grand Lake, our house in Granby, and elsewhere in Grand County. As you know, Lee was very talented musician. Not only was he good technically as a musician, his style of play on the banjo brought considerable joy to those of us who had the privilege of playing with him and those listening to the songs he would share. So, every time I hear a very good banjo tune, I can still hear Lee playing.

I also thoroughly enjoyed playing a few times with him as part of the WPCC praise band. And during those times, Lee was either about to undergo another surgery, recovering from one, or face more cancer related treatments. And despite all of those challenges, he continued to bring joy to all of us and those who heard his music. In the past, I wondered how he could muster all of that joy....with all of those things on his plate. But, it is abundantly clear to me now. You were close to his side, supporting him in every way you could. And, most of all...as he shared with me...he placed his trust in God. With that recipe for success, he could persevere through any challenge.

Martha, I pray this day, that your wonderful memories with Lee will be refreshed. I pray that you will be comforted to know how much Lee touched so many folks that he came in contact with. Through all of Lee's health related issues, I am certain that your faith has been tested to new levels of endurance and perseverance. I pray that you will continue to be lead by God and hear His voice as you move ahead to new decisions, choices and opportunities. Know that God will be with you. Jim and Sandy Pederson



“ I was fortunate to have known Lee. Whether working late at night in the print lab...sketching animals found...or just talking and hanging out. He was a great friend. He will continue to be my friend because those memories will always be with me. I hope that the memories held by the Boehner family help them through this time.
Paul Menchen

Paul Menchen - November 04, 2018 at 01:56 PM



“ Thanks, Paul. Lee spoke of you often and thought so highly of you and your family. We were glad to have the opportunity to see you here in Grand Lake when you came to Colorado. Best to you. Martha and family

Martha - November 05, 2018 at 03:32 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Judy Rhodes - October 30, 2018 at 03:46 PM



“ Lee and Martha Boehner are our very best friends. It isn't that we've been together so much recently, but when we were young couples fifty years ago, we shared so many good times that we cemented a friendship that has sustained us throughout our married lives. When we saw Lee in late August, we knew it would be our last time together. This is our attempt to remember a dear and beloved friend whose life will continue to affect us long after his passing. I think it was Lee who imagined the poogoose first. Our kids had a Speak-and-Spell when we were visiting them in the mountains. One of the words -"couldn't"- was difficult to understand each time it was pronounced by the Speak-and-Spell voice. Lee had this childlike joy that allowed him to be silly funny. What did it say? POOGOOSE. Yes, so we all spelled POOGOOSE and the Speak-and-Spell would correct us and say Try again. The laughter remains every time we think of it. Lee and Steve traded pictures they each drew of poogees. That joy was evident long before we had children. Steve and Lee worked together during grad school in Iowa, and they used to do a soft shoe routine in a janitor's closet to keep up their spirits in the Print Department. One Halloween we carved pumpkins together, and then Steve and Lee ran outside in the dark holding the lighted pumpkins so Martha and I could judge which was the scariest. That was the start of a Halloween tradition that continues in our family today. Lee's wonderful imagination and his sense of fun allowed him to make the best of so many situations, like the time when we were at their house in Grinnell, for Thanksgiving. It was warm that day, and to entertain our kids we decided to fly kites. We weren't gone long, but we had left Mandy, their dog and Pepsi, our dog, home together, and they made the most of the pumpkin pie we had brought. You'd think these pets would have been disciplined, but no: Lee and Steve soon constructed a whole conversation between the animals as they plotted to devour our dessert. Lee's abiding reverence for the natural world was evident in his art and his life. In Iowa, he included pigs, sheep, and fox in his prints, and he and Martha gathered wild plums to make jam. They called one fall to see a gathering of monarch butterflies. In Colorado, they introduced us to the flora and fauna they loved with Lee leading short treks for us flatlanders up the mountains to see wildflowers, bighorn sheep, or driving us in a freezing car listening for bugling elk, or looking out their windows at the moose family ambling through their property. I can still hear the hushed whispers Lee spoke, marveling at the wonders his eyes were privileged to see. We shared the love of old things, the stuff of history which grounded our lives. So when Martha cleaned out her mom's house, the wood cook stove came home. It was too big to fit in the house, so it sat just outside – covered with a tarp – waiting for the day when Lee would fire it up. Once such day happened when we last visited Grand Lake. Lee cooked bacon and cowboy coffee on it, just as though he had done it every day of his life. He was above all, the consummate family man, indulging his kids and ours in fantasies we can no longer remember, but which he immortalized in a drawing he made for us of Lee and Martha, Steve and me, and five of our seven kids all in masks - after the fashion of the paper masks we made at one birthday celebration which involved a big bad wolf and several other characters. But it wasn't just things of the imagination which he shared. He had a clear sense of what was right and wrong and how one should conduct oneself - and what was really important and what was not. Anyone who ever sat at their kitchen table over coffee would learn that if nothing else. Our great sense of loss cannot equal what his family must be feeling now. But we send our love in the hope that cherished memories of Lee will comfort and guide you in the days to come.

Steve & Judy Rhodes

Judy Rhodes - October 30, 2018 at 03:33 PM



“ Such precious memories to us. You know how special all our times together have always been. I pray there will be more to come, just minus a very special one. Thanks from deep, deep down in my heart.

Martha

Martha - November 04, 2018 at 09:21 PM



“ Lee was a bright light in those days at Miami U.-- always cheerfully bustling around the print lab at any hour of the day or night, running editions of his art, accompanied by his sly and humorous commentary that was a delight to listen to. Lee was always there for anything that needed to be done and was one of the people who fostered a spirit of community among the young artists. My sincere condolences to his wife Martha and family on the loss of this very special guy.

— Ralph McGeehan

Ralph McGeehan - October 29, 2018 at 10:17 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Patty Alander - October 25, 2018 at 10:28 PM



“ We loved playing tennis with Lee and joking around with him. He had mad skills on the court and a lively sense of humor. The Grand Lake tennis group will not be the same without him. We hope the Boehner family can come together and heal as you remember what a great and loving man he was.

Donna and Bill Davis

Donna - October 25, 2018 at 05:15 PM