



Joel S. Rutstein

April 17, 2022

Joel Stephen Rutstein died at home in Fort Collins, Colorado on April 17, 2022. He was born on September 5, 1940 in Burlington, Vermont to Dora (Weissman) and Milton Rutstein. He was a graduate of Burlington High School and the University of Vermont with a BA in history and political science and where he met his wife, Barbara, of 58 years. He had a Master's Degree in Asian history from Boston University and a Masters in library science from Simmons College. Joel served in the U.S. Army reserves from 1963 until 1969. He began his library career at the University of New Hampshire. After four years there, he accepted a position at Colorado State University in Fort Collins as the social science and art reference librarian. In this position, he met and became friends with many faculty in his reference areas, and thoroughly enjoyed mentoring new hires. Later, as the Collection Development Director, he guided the building of the library's book and digital collections. After the flood of 1997, he led the recovery effort which included restoration of damaged books and the acquisition of collections donated from all over the country. It won't come as a surprise that he loved to read, and was especially fond of books about Mt. Everest, World War II and art history. He was a bike commuter before it was cool – riding his trusty Trek to the campus for over 30 years, which he leveraged in later years when signing up for several Ride the Rockies.

During his time at CSU, Joel had numerous fruitful sabbaticals. Whilst in

Canterbury, England at the University of Kent, he lent his expertise in collection development, and his colleagues were kind enough to share their expertise in pub culture and eating Cornish pasties, which Joel loved. At the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, he was able to marry his love of art with books, and took full advantage of the city's cultural attractions. The Library of Congress in Washington, DC, proved another interesting adventure, allowing him access to the granddaddy of all libraries and an opportunity to curate an exhibit on Spanish Civil War posters. He also had a six-week Fulbright to India with other CSU faculty.

Once retired, Joel devoted many hours to the study of art as well as working as a pastel, watercolor and print artist. He had several shows in Fort Collins, the last one being in 2019. He also gave several lectures and classes on art and artists for Front Range Forum. In his many travels, checking out art exhibits and museums was high on the list of things to see. He served on the board of the Fort Collins Art Museum and the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art at CSU. He also devoted 20 years to cooking dinner every night, for family and friends, and relished a cigar and smokey Scotch when the opportunity arose.

During his early days in New Hampshire, it seemed reading about hiking was all he could muster, and the moniker "armchair walker" was assigned lovingly by his family. However, that all changed once Joel discovered Edward Abbey and the desert Southwest. He and some friends formed "The Desert Ramblers Club" (DRC) and each spring they took off for some of the gorgeous canyon country in Colorado and Utah. The DRC spent many days traversing the trails in Canyonlands and other favorite desert spots, on occasion rescuing other canyon rats, the occasional vehicle, and on one infamous occasion, being rescued himself. But his very favorite place to ramble was the Grand Canyon, which included the opportunity to raft through it from Lees Ferry to Lake Mead. His family also joined him on some of these trips which allowed Joel to

share and pass along his love of the desert country. Highlights of Joel's travels include Victoria Falls, the Dolomites, Iguazu Falls, Annapurna Base Camp, Torres del Paine, Argentina, various treks through the British countryside and Tiger Hill, India, to see Mount Everest.

He was a keen observer of daily life, was always interested in others, could remember the date and timeline for just about any event, and had a quick wit coupled with a dry sense of humor. His warm smile will be missed by all. There will be a gathering on June 8th, 2022, 6-8pm at the Rio Grande restaurant Agave Room, 149 W. Mountain Ave, Ft. Collins.

Joel is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters Karin Rutstein (John Mullaney) and their daughter Abigail; Pamela Rutstein and her daughters, Linden and Maya Potempa; his brothers, A. David Rutstein (Amy) and James F. Rutstein (Jane). The family is most grateful for the care Joel received from Dr. Daniel Pollyea and his staff at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Center and Dr. Steven Schuster and his staff at the Harmony Medical Center, Fort Collins.

If you would like to make a donation in Joel's name, please consider the University of Colorado Foundation, Pollyea Leukemia Research Fund, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, 13001 East 17th Place, Suite WG112 Aurora, CO 80045 or <https://giving.cu.edu/fund/pollyea-leukemia-research-fund> OR PVH & MCR Foundation, Garth Englund Blood Center 2315 E. Harmony Road, Ste. 200, Fort Collins 80528.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joel S. Rutstein*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *I believe I was his first paraprofessional library assistant to Joel in the mid-70s. Joel was fun to work with, a very interesting person with much knowledge of many things. I moved on to other fields of work - - geologist and litigation paralegal—but my memories of my library job and my library co-workers was probably the job I should have kept. Nancy L. Turner*

Nancy Turner - August 05, 2022 at 02:20 AM



“ *We were deeply saddened by the news of Joel's passing. We remember fondly the visit of the Rutstein family to our small apartment in Paris where we were on sabbatical in 1978-79. (They were on sabbatical in England at the time.) Our apartment had two lumpy beds and a broken-down sofa. Somehow, everyone accommodated themselves cheerfully to our humble abode and we all had a great time. Our memory is dim on this, but we think Karen and Pamela slept on the floor.*

In passing years we often chatted with Joel and Barbara at various events, such as the symphony. At the University, Bob crossed paths with Joel many times and always felt a bit more cheerful as a result. Of course, we will miss him.

Bob and Jeanine Leisure

Bob and Jeanine Leisure - June 12, 2022 at 03:39 PM

OA

“ Joel was an inspiration and a guiding light to me as we both struggled with the terrible and inexorable disease that we shared, AML. I miss his optimism and positivity tremendously, and I am confident that I would not have gotten as far as I have with this disease without his encouragement and example at every step along the way. Our deepest sympathy and most heart-felt condolences go out to all the members of his family, and especially to Barbara. Oren and Jennifer Anderson

Oren Anderson - June 06, 2022 at 12:44 PM

PJ

“ Joel and I went to Burlington High School and UVM..Same class-- BHS 1958 and UVM 1962. I also had the pleasure of knowing Barbara at UVM. Joel and I had great conversations at High School Reunions. I also visited once in Ft Collins.. They showed me the red dirt and snow of the Rocky Mountains and introduced me to "Bull Balls" as a delicacy. I enjoyed knowing Joel and I will remember at our last Highs School reunion of convincing Betsy How about Joels "new novel" It was great fun. I will miss himbut great memories .. At 81 I know that my rollercoaster ride of life will not go on forever..Just hope I hang around long enough to see how it all ends. Oh, I sure hope there is an afterlife that old friend can met again. My thoughts are with Bobbie and family. Phil Judd



Phil Judd - June 05, 2022 at 03:47 PM

TB

“ I didn't know Joel very long or very well, but always enjoyed talking with him in the Front Range Forum classes we attended together. His knowledge and insights always added a lot to every class and I shall miss him. My condolence on your loss.

Terry Barrett

Terry Barrett - May 23, 2022 at 09:55 PM

MR

“ We are so sorry. Joel was a wonderful person and you were a very close couple. We fondly remember our hiking trip with you to Utah.
Mary and John Raich

Mary Raich - May 23, 2022 at 11:38 AM