

Lee Movius

March 18, 1947 - June 27, 2020

Lee West Movius passed away on June 27, 2020. He was born on March 18, 1947 in Boston, MA, to Dearborn Hanham and George West Movius. The family moved to Dearborn's hometown of Asheville, NC, within two years and Lee grew up there. There, too, he developed many of his enduring passions. He loved the NC mountains and the beauty of nature throughout this country. He delighted in music after training rigorously as a pianist under the tutelage of Grace Potter Carroll who herself had trained under Theodor Leschitzky in pre-WWI Europe. Finally, he always valued education and the life of the mind. He considered himself fortunate to have been educated at St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall in Asheville; at St. Mark's School in Southborough, MA; Harvard University (BA); and the University of Chicago (MA and JD).

As a first-year graduate student in Modern European History at the U of Chicago, Lee met his future wife Gwynne, a first-year graduate student in Medieval History. Both changed career goals before marrying in 1974. Lee spent two years in Chapel Hill while Gwynne pursued an MBA. Lee clerked for Judge Frank Parker on the NC Court of Appeals for the first year and served as an attorney on the NC Utilities Commission for the second year. In 1975 Lee and Gwynne moved to Charlotte where Lee joined the law firm of Kennedy, Covington, Lobdell, and Hickman (now known as K&L Gates LLP). His practice of law was a source of great joy to him and he valued the support and intellectual stimulation of the interaction with his colleagues in the firm, and especially in his practice group, throughout his career.

Most of Lee's volunteer activities in Charlotte involved music. He served on the Board of Directors of both the Friends of Music at Queens and the Community Concert Association of Charlotte in the 20th century, and, after becoming a member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte, he served as the volunteer choir accompanist for 15 years.

Lee was a kind and attentive man who treated everyone he met with respect and compassion. He was intrigued by almost every aspect of our complicated world and loved

being able to share that world with his daughter as she grew up.

In 2011 Lee retired from practicing law for health reasons. Lee negotiated his 15-year odyssey with metastatic kidney cancer with grace and courage, and he deeply appreciated the extraordinary care that he received.

Lee was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife Gwynne; by his daughter Diana Movius (James Fotouhi); and by his sister Rosemary Steiner (Casey); also by his sisters-in-law, and their husbands, and nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the UUCS Memorial Endowment Trust at the UU Church of Charlotte, 234 N. Sharon-Amity Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211. A virtual memorial service will take place at a later date.

On-line condolences for the family may be left at www.heritagecares.com

Comments

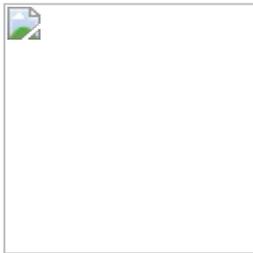


“ I was saddened to learn belatedly of the passing of my old college dorm-mate Lee, whom I remember fondly as thoughtful, well-spoken, affable -- and one of the most handsome fellows I ever met. Reading his obituary, I wish in particular that I had kept in touch as his deep interest in music was one I shared, and his UU faith the one I had been raised in myself. May a sweet Paradise welcome him; it is such kindly souls who go a long way towards healing a hurting world.

Nick Humez - November 05, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Video of Memorial Service



Diana Movius - October 02, 2020 at 01:26 PM



“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Diana Movius - September 18, 2020 at 08:01 PM



“ Blowing Rock, NC, 2015. One of my favorite photos of dad and mom.

Diana - September 18, 2020 at 08:04 PM



“ Lee was a good friend when we were in college together. Gave good advice. Helped me learn how to get along with people. Introduced me to Fats Waller's music. Visited him in Charlotte once or twice after my family and I moved to Columbia, SC, in the '80s. Wish I'd kept up better. Condolences to all.

Samuel Baker - September 18, 2020 at 04:15 PM



“ As a fellow lawyer, I often heard from Lee's partners what a fine attorney he was and how wonderful he was to work with. Getting to play music at church with Lee for so many years, I was always so impressed with not just his skill as a pianist, but his patience and grace, even with someone as obnoxious as me, even during endless Follies rehearsals! He certainly showed that grace during his long health battle. I regret so much not getting to say goodbye or to see him in the last months. What a gentle spirit!

Doug Sea

Doug Sea - September 14, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ I roomed with Lee for several years at Harvard, subsequently visited him in Chicago, Asheville, and Chapel Hill, and had a visit from him in Miami shortly before Diana's birth. No in-person contact since those days, and it is great in the photos seeing him looking just like himself! I concur with Hugh Law (who used to call him "simple Mov" affectionately) about Lee's character and warmth. A wonderful person.

I have lots of fragments of memories of him from the old days. Glad to see he continued with his music throughout. He reported having seriously studied piano, but had an accident in adolescence with a glass window and severed a tendon in his hand. Made him reconsider a professional career, but he didn't quit playing, and he had an impressive muscle developed on his thumb compensating for the injury. Back at Kirkland House, he, Pip, Sam and I sometimes talked about forming a band after college, an appealing fantasy in the late 60's. In our junior year room, Lee managed to acquire an old stand-up piano, and played it often. One time he was hammering out the chord progression from the old hit "96 Tears" and vowed he was going to play the progression 96 times! Whimsical and delightful!

We missed the chance to see him at the 50th reunion last year because of the illness, but I'm looking forward to the virtual service in September that Diana mentioned, and hoping that some others from that time can check in also.

To Diana, Gwynne and close friends, heartfelt condolences for your great loss, but also congratulations on spending years with such a special person!

Phil Boswell

Philip Boswell - August 25, 2020 at 05:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Diana Movius - August 17, 2020 at 11:58 AM



“ Kirkland House dining hall. It had long tables. Friends and friends of friends of friends clustered around Lee regularly.

Philip Boswell - August 25, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ Lee was one of my favorites! I'm so sorry for your loss.

Randy Kixmiller

randy kixmiller - July 21, 2020 at 08:01 AM



“ Dear Gwynne, Diana and Family,

We are so sorry for your loss. Lee was one of our favorite people, always kind and attentive as you say in the obituary. He had a great sense of humor and the photo in the paper was perfect - he has just told a joke!

He had a very distinguished career and contributed much to Charlotte with his music.

He will be missed.

Jean and Carl Johnson

Jean Jjohnson - July 16, 2020 at 04:18 PM



“ I'm thinking of Lee tonight. Many years ago, several of us boys sneaked into the chapel at St Mark's (the boarding school we attended near Boston), and Lee, the consummate and versatile musician, played "Ain't she sweet?" and "Sweet Georgia Brown" on the organ. It sounded like a calliope. I remember him playing the piano with a big smile on his face during the senior-class "smokers" that were held in the headmaster's study on Sunday evenings in those far-off days. We are taught that all flesh is as grass, and the glory of it is as the flower of grass. Lee certainly blossomed throughout his life, and his core never changed: very accomplished and focused, yet always cheerful, loyal, unassuming, and thoughtful -- with a sly sense of humor.

Hugh Law

Hugh Lw - July 11, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ I reconnected with Lee at our 50th reunion from St..Mark's

In 2015.We had a lot of laughs,especially about our prowess on

the athletic fields.We both played "social soccer"which focused

more on the social than the soccer..But it was lots of fun!

I don't know how Lee became " Simple Movius"anymore than

why he played "The Baby Elephant Walk" on the piano in honor

of our great friend Hugh Law,whose wedding we were so

honored to be ushers at back in 1979.

Lee had a real twinkle in his eye,which accentuated his sense of

humour.

His piano playing made his classmates happy!

A good man gone.

Rob Winthrop

Rob Winthrop - September 09, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ Gwynne,

I haven't reached out since I heard the news from you on the morning of Lee's death, but I have been thinking about you and your loss. Richard and I enjoyed getting to know you and Lee at UUCG and becoming movie and play buddies. So much appreciate the generosity you both showed in opening your home to us on several occasions. Lee will certainly be missed.

Elaine Kushmaul



Lois Elaine Kushmaul - July 11, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Gwynne and Diana, I am stunned to hear of your very great loss. I always considered it a great honor to know you all and to teach Diana who has blossomed into a highly accomplished and lovely lady. I know Lee was extremely proud of her. I recall hearing Lee play the piano. He was beyond talented. You will be in my heart and prayers in the coming days. Lee's love and peaceful spirit will always be with you. Sending great love from Tennessee.

Bess Forshaw

Bess Forshaw - July 07, 2020 at 07:23 PM



“ Ed and I were so shocked and sorry to learn that Lee has passed away. He was always so youthful and full of life. I remember his daily lunch hour habit at KCLH of a pimento cheese sandwich and a swim at the Y. His recent video tour of his garden was pure Lee. He will be missed but never forgotten. My heartfelt sympathies to Gwynne and Diana.

Marsden Sale

Marsden Sale - July 07, 2020 at 05:57 PM



“ Gwynne: I just want to add one more huge fan of your gentle, smart and talented husband. I admired you both without ever telling you. I can only imagine the years of fond memories you and Diana have to share. Diane St. John

Diane - August 11, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ So sorry to learn of Lee’s death. In my book he was a stellar fellow. Always kind and gracious with such a spice of humor. He and I had a running joke because I had recommended him for the Community Concert Board years ago and with many things in life it was likely a blessing and a curse. I feel honored to have known him and will miss seeing him and Gwynne at various concerts across the city. The video of the garden was a delight. So Lee. His choice of phrase always refreshing. Thank you for sharing it. Holding the family close to my heart as you mourn his passing and celebrate his wonderful life.
Betty Hunter

Betty Hunter - July 06, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Diana Movius - July 06, 2020 at 04:17 PM



“ I had a running joke with dad that he had the same haircut his whole life. I found this on a May 2020 trip to his childhood home in Asheville, which proved it! Dad enjoyed seeing the old picture.

Diana - July 06, 2020 at 04:19 PM



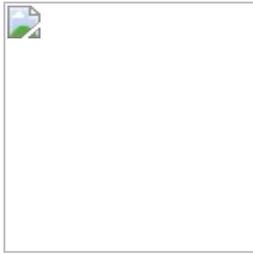
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Diana Movius - July 06, 2020 at 04:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Diana Movius - July 06, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ Lee's Video tour of his garden, April 2020. Hear Lee's warm narration and thought behind the garden.

Diana - July 06, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Diana Movius - July 06, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ Lee and Gwynne's photo for the Unitarian membership book!

Diana - July 06, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ Hi Diana,

I'm so sad to hear the news about your dad. I'll always remember his piano-playing as the soundtrack of our elementary school play dates at your house. His passion for music touched many people in ways big and small, I'm sure. With love, Gail

Gail - August 18, 2020 at 05:14 PM



“ I knew Lee as an attorney. He and I had similar practices. I had an opportunity to work with him on a UCC project -revising the memorial endowment trust. I drafted the original trust back in the 70s. Lee was very gracious in maneuvering around some of the problems in the original trust document. Vic Wray

vic wray - July 05, 2020 at 01:35 PM



“ Gwynne and Lee were among the first to pray for me when I fell ill with cancer as a young mother. Gwynne's note with the simple words "We are praying for you," have never left my heart. Lee added a dimension to life at the firm and his straightforward interest in others and compassion were a model for busy lawyers. In our remarkable and stressful firm, he always had my back, and his song composed on my exit was a lasting treasure. Gwynne and Diana, please know he was dearly loved by a host of admirers.
Nancy Norelli

NANCY Norelli - July 03, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ Dear Gwynne and Diana, I am so sorry to hear of Lee's passing. He will be greatly missed. I know you have many wonderful memories of happy times together that will help support you in the days to come. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I am friends with some ladies who used to work with Lee. They all say what a kind, helpful, smart, and friendly man he was. I know you are very proud of the good character he demonstrated on a daily basis. Maybe you remember volunteering with me on the Charlotte Youth Ballet Board. I'm Dixie's mom. I wish you strength, comfort, and peace. Sincerely, Pam Gill

Pam Gill - July 03, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ So sorry such a lovely family of Lee, Gwynn and Diana had to lose their great dad too soon. I had the good fortune to get to know the family back when Diana was dancing with the Charlotte Youth Ballet. Both Lee and Gwynn were such loving supportive parents. I hope the prayers being sent your way bring you some comfort during such a sad, sad time. Very sincerely, Linda Hutchinson-Harmon

Linda Hutchinson - July 06, 2020 at 03:23 PM



“ My brother Lee was the best big brother a girl could have in the 1950's. As soon as I could toddle he had me dig worms for bait; we trapped frogs, crayfish and drew maps of trees where we would hide old bottles full of polywogs. Lee taught me to love getting filthy and to adore anything with scales or fur. I wore his old hand me downs in the summer and clung to his back in snowstorms on our Flexible Flyer. We had our own world filled with turtles and puppies and the occasional possum. Dead mice appeared under our mother's pillow and snakes turned up in her midday bath. Years later, after our father died of cancer in 1972, I was sick with grief so Lee composed silly songs to sing until the tears vanished. Lee shaped my life and made me who I am and I gotta say I need a good song right now to stop the tears. I miss him.

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rosemary movius steiner - July 02, 2020 at 01:22 PM