

Michael "Mike" Brandt

1962 - 2020



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Michael "Mike" O. Brandt October 30, 2020 Michael "Mike" O. Brandt, 58,

of Skaneateles, N.Y. passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 30th, 2020, a short time after being diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma. Mike was born in 1962 in Bennington, Vermont. He was an actual genius and a musical prodigy, playing Mozart by ear at 5 years of age, receiving perfect scores on every exam he ever took, including the SAT. Yet he did not have a competitive bone in his body and he lived his life in a quiet and unassuming way, full of kindness, gentleness and love. He was also known for his wry humor which amused everyone, for instance wearing a COVID-safe cat mask for his CAT scan. Mike grew up in Canton, New York and has life-long friends from this time. He briefly attended MIT but soon transferred to Vassar College where people were welcoming and collaborative, much truer to his nature. He obtained his Bachelors of Arts in Physics, magna cum laude, graduating in 1984 and earning the award for the most accomplished physics student in both 1983 and 1984. Mike worked the majority of his career at Syracuse University as an Electronics Engineer and all around "I can fix-it or build-it guy" for the Physics and Chemistry Departments. His expertise, particularly with developing custom computer interfaces for analytical chemistry experiments, was well appreciated. He enjoyed his job, especially during the years when he could bring his cat to work. Mike's love of music sustained him and he played bass and keyboards for multiple bands, most frequently seen with Colleen Kattau and her band, Dos XX. He also performed with Joline Christine Rickman and his local rock and roll band, The Free Radicals. Mike loved all forms of transportation, especially trains, and when visiting a new city, he was known to try out all the public transportation available. He traveled the world seeing spectacular sites and eating the local cuisine with family and friends. He could solve any puzzle and enjoyed crosswords and NPR's weekly show "Wait, Wait Don't Tell Me" and loved listening to "Splendid Table". He also was an amazing cook, to the benefit of all who knew him, and he provided a loving home for many a wayward cat. Mike leaves behind many who love him, most notably his

soul mate, Sally Prash, his parents, Ogden and Elisabeth Brandt, his brother and sister-in-law, Richard Brandt and Ellen Beberman and his sister and brother-in-law, Ellie and Peter Shelburne. Many others will miss him greatly including his nephews and nieces: Neil and Naomi Brandt and Caleb, Ethan and Phoebe Shelburne. A celebration of Mike's life will be held as soon as it is safe to travel, likely next year. If you want to be invited or send condolences please reach out at condolencestomikebrandt@gmail.com In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Michael's name can be sent to Hungry For Music, which provides instruments to children who show a love of music, <https://hungryformusic.org> or Spay Neuter Now, which sterilizes cats and dogs in upstate New York <http://www.spayneuternow.org> . In the words of Anne Frank, "In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit." Mike taught us all how true these words are. Ahearn Funeral Home (413)587-0044 Please sign the guestbook at syracuse.com/obits

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MEMORIAL EVENTS

No events have been scheduled at this time. Check back later or contact the funeral home for more information.

Funeral services provided by

Ahearn Funeral Home

[783 Bridge Road](#)

[Northampton, MA 01060](#)

[\(413\) 587-0044](tel:(413)587-0044)

MEMORIES & CONDOLENCES

Guest Book sponsored by The Family

What would you like to say about Michael?

Not sure what to say? 

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6 entries

November 5, 2020

Mr. and Mrs. Brandt, Richard and Ellie and families, I am so sad to hear of

Michael's passing. He is present for so many of my cherished childhood memories spent in your home. I remember so clearly the awe I always felt when he would play the baby grand in your living room. Most of all, I will remember his curious spirit and the playful twinkle in his eye. I'm so glad I got to see him a few years ago when you were cleaning out the Goodrich St. house. It brought back so many great memories. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Cheryl Casey-Rose

Friend

November 5, 2020

Completely stunned! No words can express how I feel about seeing this. Although he was older, he was always very nice to me growing up and always willing to impart whatever knowledge he had. Mike's ability to be so personable is typical of his entire family.

Chris Stone

Friend

November 4, 2020

I had the privilege of hearing and watching Mike play electric bass at various gigs where my son Ben played lead guitar with Colleen Kattau's musical group. Mike was a solid, low profile, very talented contributor to that group. He displayed no need or desire for the spotlight. Later I learned of Mike's towering intellect and positive human traits which aided so many individuals with whom he interacted. I am so sorry that he had to face an impossible health challenge at such a young age. The world is poorer without Mike and other solid citizens like him. Best to his family and friends in this trying time.

Tom Bassett

Acquaintance

November 4, 2020

It was so unexpected to hear the news about Mike. He was a great person to work with. The world has lost a talented person. I remember his rum balls he made during our xmas staff gatherings Rest in Peace Mike - and condolences to all. Deb Maley

DEBORAH MALEY

Coworker

November 4, 2020

Mike was the most loving, kind, intelligent shy person I have ever met. He helped so many people and pets in so many ways. Mike lived his life quietly taking in the beauty, sounds and tastes of the world. Everything he touched was perfect and when he cooked, or played music it was

exquisite. Mike's family, like him are extremely intelligent and kind; such a hard thing for them to loose a family member. There is a hole that now needs to be filled. Let's fill it with joy, music, curiosity, beauty and kindness.

Sally Prasch

November 4, 2020

I am so sorry to hear of Michael's death -- he was truly a brilliant, kind and sensitive person when I knew him many years ago and his absence will be missed by those who knew and loved him.

Karen Doig Carpenter

Friend

INVITE OTHERS TO ADD MEMORIES

Share to let others add their own memories and condolences



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