



Michael Peter Nagell

December 8, 1951 - August 29, 2020

Nagell, Michael Peter born 12/08/1951 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Died August 29th, 2020 surrounded by his loving family. Preceded in death by parents, Fern Marie Nagell, Carl Peter Nagell; and sister, Kathleen "Kitty". Mike grew up on the family hobby farm near Osseo, Minnesota. He was a sensitive child who enjoyed caring for the family poodles and horses. He suffered great heartbreak when his beloved sister, Kitty, died at age 13 from leukemia. An English major at St. Cloud State University, he met fellow English major Barbara Hutchinson. They married, and joyfully raised two children together. Mike loved fatherhood and did so with care and great humor. He made their family home a welcoming place for neighbors, family, friends, and many foreign exchange students. His insatiable curiosity fed his love for planning family vacations and exposing his family to challenging independent films, music, art, and foreign food. With his sophisticated flair for design and a keen eye, Mike loved combing the clearance aisles for clothing then orchestrating impromptu fashion shows with his family. Despite being reportedly born with a webbed foot, he completed 35 marathons with a personal best time of 3.01. He loved politics and frequently volunteered for the DFL. Mike briefly taught high school English, before joining the family homebuilding business with his father and brother, Joe. He and Joe enjoyed a long partnership of more than 30 years; designing and building award-winning beautiful custom homes in the Twin Cities. After more than 30 years of marriage, Mike made a challenging transition to life as an out-of-the-closet gay man. He met Lyle, with whom he shared five happy travel-filled years. Mike had a dry and mischievous sense of humor. He loved telling outlandish and inappropriate fibs - even on his 96-year-old mother's obituary. For 25 years, Mike was his mother's primary caretaker, which he did without hesitation, although not without a unique blend of irreverent humor and regular skirmishes between the two. Mike prioritized his family, both immediate and extended. He nurtured lifelong friendships with cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles. Mike was loved by many and will be sorely missed. He was determined to live despite his interstitial lung disease. Ultimately, he died with a fierce desire to extend his life a bit longer by requesting a risky surgery. Mike is survived by children, Zoe (Mark) Byrnes, Peter (Kayleen Jacobson); partner, Lyle Ciarkowski; ex-wife & devoted friend, Barbara McCleary; grandchildren, Helena, Lorna and Oona Byrnes; brothers, Mark and Joe Nagell; nieces and nephews,

Michelle, Nicole, Angie, Shane, Luke and Trina; and cousins, Judy Vang, Patti and Terry Boelter, Diane Luebben, Lisa Barry, and Paula Spring. A private family memorial, as well as a Covid-safe outdoor gathering will be held soon to share stories of his mischief, his gentle heart, and our deep love for this extraordinary and beloved man. Contributions welcome and encouraged in Mike's memory to The American Lung Association.

Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Comments



“ We are VERY stunned and saddened to hear about Mike. 25 years as a neighbor was a privilege we will always cherish. When we asked for reference for a carpenter to help us, HE became that person. We cherish that gesture from the warm wonderful person he was. Toni & Gary Masler

Toni & Gary Masler - September 07, 2020 at 05:58 PM