



## Lars Bryan Meilleur

November 13, 1955 - December 22, 2020

Lars (Larry) Bryan Meilleur passed away peacefully at the age of 65 on Tuesday, December 22, 2020.

The oldest child of Larry and Lois (Aris) Meilleur, Lars was born November 13, 1955 in Muskegon, MI. Although he lived in many other cities throughout his lifetime, Michigan was always “home”. His grandparents, whom Lars adored, resided in Muskegon and the family often went back to visit, a tradition Lars continued.

Lars graduated from North Olmsted High School (OH), continued his education time at Bowling Green State Univ., Washtenaw Community College (working as an adjunct instructor) in Ann Arbor, MI and graduated from Eastern MI Univ., where he excelled in the Graphic Arts Book Printing/Productions program. While attending Washtenaw, Lars loved working at the Ann Arbor Food Co-op where he made significant improvements in their operations. He then worked at Thomson-Shore Book Printing Co., Heidelberg AG., and Colorado Printing Co. for many years. When he moved to MN, he went back to teaching at Dunwoody College and Takoda Institute enjoying his time at both.

Lars was a fearless explorer. He would try to find out-of-the-way places to have his adventures or share with others. He loved the outdoors, including

hiking, camping, backpacking, skiing and boating. As a young man, he traveled with his friends Bo, Dave and Erv (they called themselves The Woodies as they lived on Woodland Ave. in Ann Arbor), attending concerts and continuing to meet on vacation every few years, rafting in CO and hiking in Nordhouse Dunes and Olympic National Park. A highlight was attending Erv's induction to the Croquet Hall of Fame. Music was an important aspect of his life as well. Loving the Beatles, Neil Young, Pat Matheny and too many to name, and looking for new musicians of current times.

The Meilleur family spent many special times together over the years, including summer road trips as children and family reunions to Oregon, Minnesota, and Michigan. Lars often visited his parents in Palm Springs where they spent the winter months and always made it home for Christmas which was his favorite holiday.

Lars was a warm, loving and generous son, brother, uncle and friend. He was truly one of a kind. An expert storyteller, he could bring to life events from years ago, often adding his unique sense of humor. Like all the Meilleurs, Lars had a passion for poker and would go "all-in" on many occasions, win or lose. He loved sports, especially football, making sure to contact his friends while watching games on Sunday afternoons.

Lars will be deeply missed by his father, Larry Meilleur; siblings Lynne (Tom) Brenner, Lee (Stephanie) Meilleur, Loren (DeeDee Hughes) Meilleur, Lisa (Kent) Peterman; nieces and nephews, Chris (Kristina), Dan (Crissy), Luke, Morgan, Jessica (Jason), Logan (Anne), Elliott; great-nephew, Odin; and uncle, Ron (Joan) Aris.

Preceded in death by grandparents, Ronald and Mary Aris and Edward and Florence Meilleur; mother Lois Meilleur; nephew Jared Peterman.

There will be a service to celebrate Lars' life the summer of 2021. Memorials may be given to Northeast Minneapolis Arts District ([northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org](http://northeastminneapolisartsdistrict.org))

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Lars befriended me while we were at Takoda Institute. He was a great homework partner and walking partner. He got me in the habit of walking between classes and we explored more of the neighborhood than I would have by myself. He was always curious and had great stories.*

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**Don Boesen** - February 06, 2021 at 02:42 PM

GR

“ *The biggest thing that stands out to me is how much fun Larry was with game playing, not so much board games for me but activity stuff. My favorite was 'State vs. U'. Up to three people would be on one team and the State team was imaginary. So we'd pretend to be guarded, pass around and shoot, and if we made a shot we got a point, If we missed State got the point. It was Fun.*

*Cross Country Croquet was another fav. Each player was given two wickets and told to put them in tandem somewhere with directions on how the ball should go thru. The field of play could easily be 40 yards long.*

*Kitty's Rules were dart rules we made up while drinking at Kitty O'shea in Ann Arbor. There were all kinds of unusual rules like keeping track of accidental triples to break a tie, you always had one more chance to catch up, and if the dart hit metal and bounced all the way back to the line, you got to throw again.*

*...and lots of card games.*

*Larry was a fun guy.*

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**griff** - January 10, 2021 at 10:56 PM

EP

“ *Lars was a great housemate and friend who introduced me to many of the wonders of Michigan - Nordhouse Dunes especially. It was wonderful to see one another at our Woodland reunions and have new adventures to remember. Our last in Palm Beach was a wonderful time with new and old friends enjoying one another. I'll miss my brother.*



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**Erv Peterson** - January 04, 2021 at 12:42 PM

HA

“ *Fond memories of dancing at Performance Network to Peter Gabriel's Diamonds on the Soles of their feet. Met Lars through Griff Griffin. Lars was a stand-up individual whose heart was open all the time. Rest in peace, friend.*

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**Harriet** - January 03, 2021 at 01:22 PM

KP

“ *Lars was a special person, to his family and friends. He will be missed greatly by all. His presence and care for those around him made get togethers special. Lisa and I enjoyed spending time with him in Michigan with Grandpa and Grandma and so many other other times. He will be missed and forever in my heart.*

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**Kent Peterman** - January 02, 2021 at 10:01 PM

DB

“ *Lars added adventure to life in the endless pursuit of just being with nature. My life is much enriched by our friendship and times we spent traveling the countryside. Peace, Brother.*

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**Dan Bruell** - January 02, 2021 at 05:57 PM

DF

“ *mountain bikes in the huron river valley: all four seasons, bird hills, barton pond, nichols arboretum ... Peace*

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**dale francis** - January 02, 2021 at 03:11 PM

LB

“ *I have so many fond memories of Lars. Hiking, enjoying a concert or just sharing a laugh. He had an indomitable spirit for fun and adventure and a wry sense of humor. RIP my dear friend.*

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**Lee Bonta** - January 02, 2021 at 02:45 PM