

Mike eulogy

As his father, I don't know how to talk about what Jeremy meant to me.

I guess I would say he meant everything to me.

At times, he could be difficult, frustrating, demanding, but also witty, engaging, thought provoking.

He loved discussing ideas, history, politics, art, movies, science and technology.

Whatever the topic, he seemed to always have a unique way of looking at it.

He was a philosopher and an artist, a lover of beauty and learning.

Music was one of his great passions.

The Grateful Dead were his favorite band, Bob Dylan his favorite song writer. If you named any song, he could say the year it was released.

His favorite TV show was Star Trek. He identified with it's utopian ideals and ethical complexities.

Jeremy was a thinker above all. He loved making maps and charts, such as redefining the US House of Representative districts to be more equitable.

At the Evergreen State College, Jeremy studied film making, creating his first film 'Letters in the Sand', which was also screened at several film festivals.

His work at Pacifica Graduate Institute provided a further focus for his artistic and scholarly talents. He studied Jung and myth among other topics.

For his first project there he produced a short film, 'The Artist', that he scripted, cast, directed and filmed.

He looked forward each month to a recurring discussion group with his Pacifica colleagues.

I am very proud of Jeremy's many accomplishments, among them:

Hiking the 67-mile Backbone Trail in the Santa Monica Mountains twice; once solo and once with me and Marcia,

Bachelors degree from the Evergreen State College,

Masters degree in Engaged Humanities and Creative Life from Pacifica Graduate Institute,

He was an accomplished filmmaker, audio engineer, photographer and artist.

One of his favorite things was going on driving trips to visit National Parks and other places of interest.

It was on his final road trip that he was taken from us.

He has left a void that will never be filled.

Marcia eulogy

My life with Jeremy David Sarka. As Jeremy's mother, he was my teacher instead of the other way around. I want to remember the joy he experienced in being a soul experiencing this fascinating world of physical reality. Instead I feel his pain being such a pure spirit in this time of humanity's damage to the earth and to the souls that inhabit it. I also need to acknowledge the burden he carried from my own unhealed childhood trauma. And set both the pain and the burden down, to celebrate the life he lived, and his gifts to aliveness. I wrote this when Jeremy was applying to Pacifica Graduate Institute in August 2017, 5 years ago.

As a child, Jeremy was drawn to storytelling and the mythologizing of human experiences. From cartoon characters, Jewish fables, Greek myths, and as a young teenager reading all of Carlos Castaneda's writings, Jeremy would use these resources to reinterpret everyday living through story. Additionally, Jeremy's interest in science, technology, and politics, exemplified by his teenage reading of Stephen Hawking, Isaac Asimov, and Daniel Quinn, invited him to interpret these theories through story as well.

Jeremy's college experience has prepared him well for the type of program offered at Pacifica Graduate Institute. At the Evergreen State College, seminar was an essential component in every course, which gave him experience articulating on academic subjects. Additionally, most of the Evergreen courses are interdisciplinary so he is comfortable and competent at seeing connections between subject areas. At Evergreen, Jeremy was able to complete a short film in his film program which was honored as the 'most ... film' at the student film festival, as well as being shown at several film festivals around the United States. Jeremy also had opportunities to produce records, recordings of music by mixing and again received acclaim for this effort. In other programs at Evergreen, Jeremy demonstrated excellent writing in Sociology programs, collaborative skills in Audio Recording projects, and teaching abilities in his support of fellow students in Computer Lab. His breadth of study reflects his ongoing passion to understand and interpret the human experience. On a recent international trip, Jeremy expressed to a new friend, 'I don't want to tell my own story; I want to tell the story of all people.'

And the Interdisciplinary Master's program embraced that passion. The comments we received from his colleagues reflects this. Another milestone in his life is his 15th year, culminating with a birthday party where we gave him a set of car keys with a turtle, his spirit animal, keychain. I called it the 'year of not knowing' because previously, in our homeschool studies, I would let him direct the focus each day, but after his 14th birthday, when I asked what he wanted to work on, he would reply slowly and with a blankness 'I don't know.' I think it's the year he became an adult. After that, he made the choices of the direction his life lead. That year was our first visit to Timbisha (Death Valley National Park). Another facet of our family life, different than many others, was that Jeremy never called me mommy or mom or mother, just Marcia, and I think that expressed our deeper relationship as companions on this earthly journey, in addition to my parenting role as helper and guide. The other day, in one of infrequent rains - which he loved so much, I heard the water dripping on the palm fronds and saw the water droplets hanging from the rose vines, and I felt such gratitude for being a best friend to Jeremy David Sarka.