



Leonard "Buddy" Robert Gruntman

October 2, 1943 - March 29, 2022

Leonard Robert Gruntman (aka "Buddy") was born on October 2nd, 1943 in Benton Harbor, MI. to Lena (Kutz) and Leonard Rhinehold Gruntman. He grew up on a peach farm with 4 siblings, Genie (Perkins), Elaine (Holt), and Ronnie, where he attended Pearl School and graduated from Benton Harbor High school.

He married JoAnn Szepanszky in 1966 and they had 3 children; Michael Szepanszky (step-son), Danielle (Weigold) Gruntman, and Leonard Joseph James ("James") Gruntman. Leonard attended courses at Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor and earned a PhD in Biology from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Leonard received a patent on a solar water purification device and lived completely off the electrical grid for several years. After working briefly as a teacher in Houston, TX, Leonard discovered that he could not feel at home unless he was surrounded by the trees of the midwestern United States. He returned to Michigan, then Kentucky, and eventually settled in Indiana, living in both Bedford and Bloomington during the last 40 years of his life.

Leonard loved books, music, math, and the woods. He was very interested in music theory, especially the pentatonic scale. He is remembered for playing the harmonica using a neck holder while picking peaches during his youth, and for playing guitar, banjo, and the harmonica around a campfire and at gatherings of friends in his later years.

Leonard was preceded in death by his parents, Lena and Leonard, siblings,

Genie and Ronnie, and his ex-wife, JoAnn. A Memorial Service will be held in Bloomington on Friday, April 29, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Lower Cascades Park - Lions Den Shelter, 2851 Old State Road 37, Bloomington Indiana 47404.

His daughter, Danielle, will hold a second memorial in Benton Harbor in late July. Details will be provided via social media and word-of-mouth.

Tribute Wall

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“ Please accept my deepest sympathy during this time of your loss. I remember Buddy as a young child when my Mom use to take us to go pick peaches, cherries, and other fruits at their farm. My Mom was Buddy's cousin (Marian Thomas-Buckner). Buddy had a smile that would light up a room. May God bring comfort to you during this time of sorrow.

Vicky Buckner-Stringer

Vicky Stringer - April 23, 2022 at 11:41 AM

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“ My deepest condolences to Danielle and James. Your father was such a special man.

Stacey - April 08, 2022 at 09:35 AM