



Robert Desenberg

May 18, 1939 - April 2, 2016

After a lengthy and brave battle with severe, chronic and progressive health issues Robert passed away peacefully at the home he loved.

Robert was a man who had experienced many tragedies and heartaches, but he was also that special kind of person who through thought and personal introspection became a self-enlightened deep soul who used that knowledge to the benefit of all who knew and interacted with him. His dry sense of humor made him adept at interjecting a humorous remark unexpectedly at the exact right moment in conversation.

In high school Robert won the Cleveland, Ohio Stillman-Kelly Tri-State music competition for classical piano performance. For this he was the recipient of a scholarship to the Julliard School of Music. Robert chose not to pursue further classical training deciding instead to pursue his love of jazz and blues. His keyboard talent, style and passion afforded him public acclaim and the opportunity to play with some very well-known musicians in these fields including Jimmy Smith, Jimmy McGriff, Jack McDuff and Jimmy Witherspoon. After years on the road filled with wine, women and song Robert decided on a major lifestyle change. At midlife he returned to school and received his Master's in Social Work Counseling. With his therapeutic skills and personal experience Bob was able to affect a lot of lives. He was a "friend of Bill's " for 37 years.

Robert never did leave his music behind but kept it as a gift for friends and his own enjoyment—composing two concertos over the years.

Robert loved nature and the outdoors. Hiking, camping, canoeing and visiting the woods and state parks were probably his favorite pastimes. On a canoeing trip in Estero, Florida he and his neophyte canoeing partner (who shall remain anonymous) panicked and almost capsized their canoe when several alligators were spotted laying the shore.

Bob also loved designing gardens, wood trails and bridges that truly enhanced properties. He had a real gift for planting and growing any living green thing. Since childhood he had a dream of seeing the Alps and in 2004 the universe unexpectedly presented him the gift of a lifetime and his wish came true. He also loved animals and would find creatures in need of rescue or they would find him, and they would be given food, love and care; often times a new home.

He was a most generous man who loved to share with people. More than once he literally gave the shirt or jacket off his back to someone who admired it.

Robert is survived by and sorely missed by Karen his adoring wife of 37 years and his beloved friend Dexter. They are determined to valiantly attempt to see their way through this excruciating time with the eyes of love because love is what defined their relationship with him.

Condolences and remembrances can be made by snail mail or by contacting Allen Funeral Home www.allencares.com. Anyone wishing to assist in the effort to take Robert back to his beloved Mohican State Park in Ohio can also do so through Allen Funeral Home.

Funeral Blues

Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone,
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the pianos and with muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come.

Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead

Scribbling on the sky the message He is Dead.
Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves,
Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.

He was my North, my South, my East and West,
My working week and my Sunday rest,
My noon, my midnight, my talk , my song;
I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong.

The Stars are not wanted now; put out every one,
Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun,
Pour away the ocean and sweep up the woods;
For nothing now can ever come to any good.

W.H. Auden

Tribute Wall

RY

“ I am very late to the game here but was prompted to search for Bobby as I told my son about him. Bobby is family through my mom's side (Patti). Bobby is my uncle. Our paths only crossed briefly and I was able to tell Bobby this story a few years back when we briefly reconnected. When I was 12 or so, Bobby sent me a birthday gift. It was Led Zeppelin's first album. It utterly blew my mind and changed my musical direction for the rest of my life both as a lover of music and a musician. Thank you for changing my life! I love you and will never forget you and miss you.

Ryan David Mitchell

Ryan - May 13, 2021 at 06:05 AM

LW

“ I didn't know about this until today, at my volunteer gig and saw that Karen had volunteered here recently. Something made me look to see whether Bob was still in this life, and now I know. Bob and I were both friends of Bill, and he was one of my supports and guides in my early years, back in the eighties. He and Karen were always ready to help, and always quick to make a person laugh or smile. Karen, I am so sorry for your pain, and so glad you had a long, good life together. I'm sending you a virtual hug, dear lady.---Lisa W.

Lisa Williams - January 07, 2019 at 03:23 PM

MW

“ *Knowing Robert and Karen has always been an honor. We met through a medical encounter many years ago and the gentleness of spirit that emitted from both of them has always remained with me. All the kind words that were mentioned in the obituary were very fitting in describing their union. Gentleness and kindness are always a magnet in this world and the love they shared was evident in that union. May God hold each closely and may Karen feel the presence of Robert's love always. Peace!*



Myrna Walls - April 07, 2016 at 01:22 PM

KB

“ *Robert Desenberg was a kind, compassionate man, who dedicated many years in the service of helping others. I had the privilege of meeting him and his beautiful wife Karen, and they quickly became my dearest friends. Bob had a wonderful sense of humor and was quick witted, always trying to lighten the conversation, and place a smile on others face. One of the most noticeable characteristics of Bob was his unfailing devotion, love, respect for his wife Karen. Even when extremely ill, Bob always was making sure that Karen had the support she needed. Their deep love and respect for each other was admired by many. He is already missed. All my Love Your Friend, Kara, Kaleb, Grant, Darcy and Chewy :)*

Kara Bierbaum - April 07, 2016 at 09:36 AM

TS

“ *Trisha Salyers lit a candle in memory of Robert Desenberg*



Trisha Salyers - April 07, 2016 at 01:44 AM

TS

“ *I am so happy to say that I got to know Robert "Bob" Desenberg in the last 9 months. He is the most loving, careing, kind hearted, funny, spirited man I have ever met; and my life is better for knowing him and his lovely wife Karen. The love that they share for each other is one that I feel so privelaged to have witnessed. There are few people in this world who are lucky enough to feel and share the love that they have for each other. I feel so lucky to have had the time that I had with Bob , and to have him and Karen share many stories with me of their lives. My favorite times and memories with them are the times that we spent having pizza and sharing stories (especially the stories we thought Bob wasn't listening too until he interjected with his many numerous comments and noises) 😊. Bob is a man of many talents, and he will be missed by many.*

Trisha Salyers - April 07, 2016 at 01:43 AM

RD

“ I have always enjoyed Bob's welcoming humor, wit, stoicism and deep seriousness- I especially appreciate and admire the great love Bob shares with his beautiful wife Karen. One time Bob played a few bars for Karen and I on their baby grand- WOW- I wish I'd had the chance to see/ hear him perform before his illness. Dear Karen I have the highest regard for the excellent, unending care you have taken of Bob these past several years- God Bless you both!!

Rosemary Doherty

Rosemary Doherty - April 06, 2016 at 11:00 PM

WB

“ Williams Bros. purchased the Floor Plant for Sym pathy for the family of Robert Desenberg.



Williams Bros. - April 06, 2016 at 12:06 PM

KM

“ Katrina Miller purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Robert Desenberg.



Katrina Miller - April 05, 2016 at 09:38 AM

KM

“ Katrina Miller lit a candle in memory of Robert Desenberg



Katrina Miller - April 05, 2016 at 08:44 AM

SS

“ I got to know Bob thru his awesome wife Karen. We met at the YMCA and knew we shared a lot of the same "dreams" as well as both being March babies! Bob would be with us and I would also see them at the bookstore where we'd share a cup of coffee and laughs. I will always remember Bob and his wonderful smile and positive attitude.

My prayer for Karen is that she will always have her many wonderful memories of Bob and that she and Dexter will know that Bob is smiling down on them every moment of every day!

*Blessings, Hugs and Love,
Susan*

Susan Strom - April 04, 2016 at 12:49 PM



“ Love's Embrace Roses – Purple was purchased for the family of Robert Desenberg.



April 04, 2016 at 11:59 AM

JD

“ Bob and Karen are wonderful people. Their kindness and grace shown through in the short times I have spent in their presence. I'll never forget the kind words and compassion they showed me when my father passed away several years ago. I am deeply saddened to hear of Bob's passing...

My deepest condolences go out to Karen, as well as friends and family. Wishing you peace to bring comfort, courage to face the days ahead, and loving memories to forever hold in your heart.

~Jenna

*"Let life be beautiful
like summer flowers and
death like autumn leaves."*

- Tagore -

Jenna D - April 04, 2016 at 08:08 AM

JF

“ Bob and Karen were wonderful next door neighbors to me, when I really needed wonderful next door neighbors. they gave us wise advise, let us play our music loud, and we shared the only ghost I've ever known.

What was more important to me, though, is that Bob was one of about six people that, in the most dangerous and critical point in my life, he saved it. He was the main force that at my lowest point, convinced the powers that I shouldn't go to prison. He gave me counsel on things where I really wouldn't listen to anyone else. He showed me that a man can move from being a wild and self-destructive man, to a wild and constructive man. He was at that time, my hero, and I listened to him carefully, and now I have a great life because of it.

Jon Fitch - April 03, 2016 at 08:43 PM

JW

“ Bob helped me without knowing in 1984.

Thank you Bob.

Jack Willsey

Jack Willsey - April 03, 2016 at 02:46 PM

CF

“ My first "real" job out of college was working at Koala Counseling Center. Bob was the first person I met on that journey. He was a great mentor who was willing to share his experience to make others lives easier. I was saddened to hear of his passing as the world always needs more people like him. My thoughts are with his family and close friends. Peace be with you.

Cherlyn Allbright Fisher

Cherlyn Fisher - April 03, 2016 at 08:50 AM