



Joseph Joel Merzetti

February 18, 2024

In loving memory of Joseph (Joel) Merzetti.

With heavy hearts, the family announces the peaceful passing of Joseph (Joel) Merzetti on Sunday, February 18th, 2024, at the age of 72, after a long journey with prostate cancer.

Joel was a beloved father to Connor (Ikue). He was a treasured brother to Susan Mickle (Doug), and Laura Merzetti (Rob). Joel leaves behind many cousins, nieces, nephews and so very many friends who hold him dear in their hearts. He also leaves behind his beloved guitar, Ruby.

He was predeceased by his parents Herman and Lorraine (Keenan) Merzetti, and one sister Angela Tomsic (Gene).

Known to his family as Joe, in a declaration of independence in his teenage years, he changed his name to Joel, becoming a very determined adult in the process. He was guided by a quiet insistence on being true to himself, which never wavered throughout his lifetime.

Born in North Bay, Ontario, Joel also spent many years growing up in Haileybury and New Liskeard before calling Toronto home for the majority of his life.

Joel was a gifted musician and a soulful singer-songwriter who touched the hearts of all who had the privilege of listening or playing with him. His lyrics were poetic and profound, weaving stories that resonated with the human experience.

Joel spent the last two decades supporting students in their educational journeys at Robarts and Gerstein Libraries, University of Toronto. He will be fondly remembered by students and staff.

At Joel's request there will be no visitation or funeral service. Cremation has already taken place. A celebration in his honour will be planned for the future. No doubt there will be music.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Michael Garron Hospital, Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital (10th floor), Spectrum Health Care, and Kensington Hospice for your excellent care and kindness during the past four months.

As an expression of sympathy, donations to Kensington Hospice would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Tribute Wall

RE

“ I’m a colleague of Joel’s from U of T’s Robarts Library, and I was deeply saddened to hear about his passing. I had such a wonderful time working with him and will always remember the wisdom he shared with me over the years. I am truly grateful to have had a colleague like him. I always looked forward to hearing about his life, travels, musical journey, and the kind things he would say about his family. I would often stay at work a few extra hours just to chat with him after not seeing him for a while.

Joel was incredibly inspiring and open-minded, never hesitating to share his knowledge and wisdom with everyone around him. He always had a book in hand and a desire to learn more, which was so admirable. His authenticity and creativity were a constant source of inspiration to me.

I send my heartfelt condolences to his wife, children, friends, and everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.

Reva - September 27, 2024 at 09:57 PM

JH

“ Joel and I were musical friends going back to Thornlea SS where we first met. He was a very talented poet, musician and songwriter. I will miss the days when he would drop in and we would pickup where we left off. RIP Joel.

JP Hawkins - May 10, 2024 at 08:31 PM



Hi JP. Thank you for your fond remembrances of my Bro' Joe. You and he shared the, "JP" moniker Yup, that was Joel, to a T. He was the same with all the people he encountered along life's paths. No doubt he's entertaining along with the greatest choir of angels. Susan MerzettiMickle.

Susan Mickle - May 12, 2024 at 04:54 PM

SM

“ My beloved brother, Joe, aka Joel, has passed away, to continue making music wherever his spirit has landed. A loyal son, brother, father, friend, a champion of children and their potentials, and a music man, bar none, Joe was always observing life and later writing about it in beautifully crafted songs. He was an exquisite wordsmith, guitar and piano player.

Joe's first taste of freedom came at age three when he left home to wander the streets of Haileybury, ON and, attracted by the noise at the Big Dock, found himself amid the many people watching a regatta. How I zoomed in on him, only fate knows, but I gently persuaded him to come with me on a promise to push him on the big kid's swing - a real treat, before piggybacking him home, to our very relieved family.

Joe was a lover of books, a gift to all of us, sibs, from our Mom and Dad. And, then there was the food....mashed potatoes, cabbage rolls, gnocchi, homemade Merzetti spaghetti sauce, strawberry shortcake, banana bread, and eggs, for which he always had a very hearty appetite. Meals were so much fun as we got together to celebrate just being with each other.

I read a quote many years ago, and find it so appropriate, being Irish and Italian. I'm certain that Joe would have appreciated it.

“ I said some words to the close and holy darkness, and then I slept.” Dylan Thomas.

Rest in deepest peace, my sweet Bro' Joe.

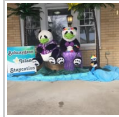
I will always love and miss you (tears, here)💕💕.

Susan Merzetti Mickle. - March 30, 2024 at 12:39 PM

SR

Dear Susan ... Thank you so much for your kind words relating to my post. I will miss your brother, my friend, with all my heart. I wonder, is there a celebration of his life planned? If so, in moments of utter madness, I'm truly tempted to come. I'd love to hear from you if you get a spare moment. You can reach me at: sue.rugg@exeter.ac.uk Many thanks ... Sue 😊

Sue Rugg - April 26, 2024 at 08:01 PM



Hi, Sue. My apologies I'm not getting back to you sooner. You're so welcome. A friend of Joe's is a friend of mine. Yes, there will be a celebration of Joel's life, but we have no date, yet. I'll add you to my contact list and keep you posted. Where do you live?

Susan Mickle - May 12, 2024 at 03:50 PM

SR

Hi Susan ... Thank you. Please add me to your contact list. I live in England but, if there's something celebratory planned for Joel, eventually, the crazy part of me is tempted to come! Sue

Sue Rugg - May 30, 2024 at 09:48 AM

SR

Dear Susan ... I know that it sounds crazy but I'm going to be in Toronto for a week next week (June 12th-19th). It would be lovely to meet you and/or Connor, if it's possible. Please email and let me know. I look forward to hearing from you when you get a spare moment ... Sue 😊

Sue Rugg - June 07, 2024 at 09:34 AM

SR

“ Joel was my friend. We sang together countless times when he lived in Vancouver, many years ago. I am so sorry to hear of his recent passing. I send my heartfelt condolences to Tam, Connor and to everyone else who knew him. Although I've been living in England for almost forty years now, Joel and I have been exchanging emails throughout. I will be there in spirit for any future celebration of his life and I know that there will be music. With all my love ... Sue Xx

Sue Rugg - March 28, 2024 at 07:37 PM

SM

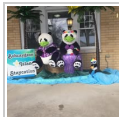
Thank you for your memories and kind words, Sue, and for being such a good , faithful friend to Joel.
Yes, there definitely be music! 🥰

Susan Merzetti Mickle. - March 30, 2024 at 12:44 PM

SR

Dear Susan ... Thank you so much for your kind words. I will miss your brother, my friend, with all my heart. I wonder , is there a celebration of his life planned? If so, in moments of utter madness, I'm truly tempted to come. I'd love to hear from you if you get a spare moment. You can reach me at: sue.rugg@exeter.ac.uk Many thanks ... Sue 😊

Sue Rugg - April 25, 2024 at 06:45 PM



What a great friendship you both shared in those West Coast days. He loved Vancouver and we sibs were so happy that he was able to visit our mom many times, as my sisters I lived in Toronto. I can't believe it's almost three months since he passed and Laura and I are as close as ever.
I'll keep in touch, Sue. Take care and Happy Mother's Day if it's appropriate.

Susan Mickle - May 12, 2024 at 05:08 PM

SR

Thank you Susan ... That's very kind of you. Please keep me in the loop if there is something celebratory planned for Joel. I live in England, but the crazy part of me is definitely tempted to come! Sue 😊

Sue Rugg - May 30, 2024 at 09:51 AM

RE

“ *Although I have only known Joel for a short while working with him at Uoft Robarts Library he has inspired and impacted everyone here in a major way. Joel had the gift to tell stories in a way that made us feel like we were there in the moment with him, it was something that was very rare, something that I have never come across in a person in my whole life. Joel would share memories from his life and the many journeys hes gone on. He said to me once that he didn't think he was any one particularly special but to me Joel is the definition of the meaning of life. He had such a beautiful soul and many talents and gifts and he always wanted to keep learning. He knew so much about life, all kinds of cultures, books, and different genres of music. The most amazing thing about him I would say is how he managed to live such an eventful life, it was almost like he lived multiple different ones over his lifetime. To me Joel is the most wisest, knowledgeable, and caring person I have ever met. He spoke so highly of the people around him but Joel is the one who deserves all the praise. I hope that he knows what an amazing person he was may he rest in peace.*

Reyna Escandor - March 08, 2024 at 06:11 PM

SK

“ So saddened to lose my wonderful musical friend of 55 years. Joel always went through life with a smile and a chuckle! I cherish the musical experiences that I shared with him, recording, jamming, and our kids group., THE PONY EXPRESS, entertaining for schools and libraries. He was a special part of our family and wrote a song about our family farm. We will continue to sing a songs and pass them on! He will be greatly missed!
My deepest sympathies and many hugs 🍷
Sheryl

Sheryl Keith - March 04, 2024 at 03:24 PM

LM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laura Merzetti - March 02, 2024 at 04:05 PM

FR

“ A good man and a wonderful musician.
I am going to miss him and our jam sessions.
Frank Raso

Frank Raso - February 27, 2024 at 10:37 AM

DB

“ So very sorry to hear of Joel's passing. Sincere condolences to his family and friends. Sending loving thoughts especially to his son and sisters. Rlp. I'm sure he will be greatly missed.
Donna and Derek

Donna Cook Broschak - February 26, 2024 at 07:46 PM