



Mr. William Maynard McQueen

February 3, 2017

William Maynard McQueen (1940-2017).

Bill McQueen passed away suddenly on Friday, February 3rd from complications of his health conditions. Bill is survived by his long-time partner Bounthavy (Bon) Posavanh, his brother John James (Jim) McQueen and wife Beth Wolf, his niece Kathy McQueen, and his nephew James McQueen. He will be sadly missed by many friends from his disability community, in the OISE/UT/CASAE Adult Education community, Dharma Friends meditation group, his political circles, Counterpoint Community Orchestra, LGBT and other communities.

Bill grew up in Normal IL where his love for music was evident from an early age. He was all-state first chair clarinet in high school and continued playing in an orchestra as an adult. Bill was a dedicated community organizer, an adult educator with a keen sense of social justice, a video story teller who extended 'voice' to developing and emerging communities, and consultant for small to large corporations wishing to develop effective accessibility strategies to include persons with disabilities in their operations and culture. Bill earned his Bachelor in Humanities from The City University of New York and his Master's in Education (Adult Education and Learning) from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. He worked in New York City as a radio program host for about 10 years and later at the Globe & Mail in Toronto.

Among Bill's many accomplishments were: Organizer and Founder,

Group4Access; CFO and Documentary Video Producer, Fireweed Media Productions Inc.; Facilitator and Developer, Media Access and Participation Initiative; Managing Editor of The Learning Edge CASAE; Producer of “The Disability Network” for CBC Television; and co-founder, Chair and Member of the Board of Directors for Counterpoint Community Orchestra in Toronto. Bill was dedicated to the success of the orchestra, and to maintaining its strong commitment to its origins, both as a community orchestra, and as emerging from and giving back to the LGBTQ community.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, March 18, 2017, from 1:30-2:30pm at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, 12 Alexander Street, Toronto. Doors open at 1:00, and there will be a casual reception with light refreshments to follow, to about 3:30.

Donations may be made to the Counterpoint Community Orchestra, 63 Wellesley Street East, Box 41, Toronto, M4Y 2E3, or The 519 Community Centre, Toronto.

Tribute Wall

RJ

“ I will always remember you Bill as the Gentle Giant who captured Picasso PRO and so many other disability arts moments with your keen eye ad loving camera; a peace warrior and genuine advocate for cultural inclusion. You will be missed and remembered with love and affection ---Rose Jacobson

Rose Jacobson - March 19, 2017 at 02:11 PM

JL

“ I was so sad to hear of Bill's passing. He has been a great Artist in Toronto and abroad and he has helped me many times in my productions. We will miss you Bill.

*From myself and D.D.P. studios Inc.
Rest in Peace my friend.*

*Jean-Claude Lafond
Chief Creative Producer, CEO
D.D.P. studios Inc.
www.ddpstudios.com*



Jean-Claude Lafond - March 13, 2017 at 12:03 PM

JP

“ 3 files added to the album *Bill McQueen*



Jacquelin Pegg - February 28, 2017 at 10:42 PM

AL

“ *Bill was an AMAZING man! I had the privilege to share the 2nd Clarinet Chair with him MANY years ago! He was always so eager to help Counterpoint improve. Many times we sat at the back of the orchestra (because that's where Clarinets sit in string orchestras) and we would come up with names/themes for our concerts together. He always wanted to ensure it was something catchy/fun and appropriate for each programme. I will miss him dearly! Such a wonderful, caring man.*

Alex Latoche - February 15, 2017 at 11:14 PM

BP

“ *Happy VALENTINE'S DAY my love Bill
Love you and miss you
Bon*

bounthavy phosavanh - February 14, 2017 at 11:14 AM

GM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Geraldine Macdonald - February 13, 2017 at 02:10 AM

JP

“ I met Bill almost 15 years ago when I started attending Dharma Friends, the LGBT meditation group where he was already a regular. I got to know him over the years during social time after our sittings and at our annual Pride BBQs and winter potlucks.

When Bill was having health challenges in 2009 or 10, I became involved in his care circle. I learned a lot from Bill about self-advocacy and the medical system over the next few years, but also about honesty, openness and directness in difficult situations, and how to be a better friend. I enjoyed getting to know him on a more personal level, and I also learned a lot about topic of interest to him: adult education, the disability community, politics, and community organizations.

When I dusted off my clarinet in 2015 after not playing for 25 years, Bill was there: he gave me advice on reeds and mouthpieces, helped my self-confidence, practiced with me, and, when my old poorly-kept clarinet failed me, he loaned me his spare.

Bill gave people his time, energy, attention, skills and knowledge in ways that were very important. He knew how to create and sustain meaningful personal relationship, networks, and community groups. It took me a while after I first met him to notice, but he also had a very good, dry, and well-pointed sense of humor.

I am grateful to have known Bill, and I will miss him. My condolences to all his many other friends, to his partner, Bon, and to his family.

Jacqui Pegg - February 12, 2017 at 10:13 PM

BP

“ *lost you but you are still always in my heart with love and love from Bon*

bounthavy phosavanh - February 12, 2017 at 08:03 PM

BP

“ *lost you forever but you are still always in my heart with love and love you from bon*

bounthavy phosavanh - February 12, 2017 at 07:54 PM

JM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jody Macdonald - February 10, 2017 at 08:11 PM

BP

lost you forever but you still always in my heart and always love you from bon

bounthavy phosavanh - February 12, 2017 at 07:48 PM

HB

Like Jacqui, I, too, met Bill through the gay meditation group, Dharma Friends. Despite health challenges, Bill would attend the group regularly --even if he did snore off loudly sometimes while sitting! (Something many of us do but try to hide.) I would sometimes run into Bill at the YMCA and give him a ride to Dharma Friends and often a lift home afterwards as well. We soon discovered that we knew many people in common from the early days of Gay Liberation in Toronto . When I was working on a presentation at the Central Reference Library on Forty Years of Gay Liberation in Toronto, Bill would often call me with suggestions, ("Don't forget about Fruit Cocktail! They were important!") Bill also had strong opinions about politics, US politics in particular, and this enlivened many a conversation. He was also very interested in alternative medicine and skeptical of conventional medical treatments.

He was a unique individual and I shall miss him, as will many others. Rest in peace, dear Bill.

Hugh Brewster - February 16, 2017 at 01:57 PM

CM

I'm saddened to learn of Bill's passing in today's Globe and Mail newspaper. He's a passionate artist in disability rights and promoted heavily on "inclusion" in the media. He even helped us out at the first Toronto International Deaf Film and Arts Festival, PSA in 2006. Every time I see him, over the years at various of media related events, I give him a hug and we always have intriguing conversations! He shall be missed. Rest in peace, Bill.

Catherine MacKinnon - February 20, 2017 at 02:05 PM

BR

I, too, met Bill at Dharma Friends, where we shared a liking for bright socks and dry humour. Bill was a regular attendee at the Dharma Friends annual Pride BBQ, which has been held in my back garden for a number of years. He delighted in the raccoon mum with babies that often attended, and he would also ask after them when we met at Dharma Friends.

I could always tell when Bill arrived at Dharma Friends, even if I couldn't see the door, because his gentle presence filled the room. I'll think of him every time I see a pair of bright socks or a raccoon family, to whom I will say, "How are you, Bill McQueen was asking about you."

Bill Ross - February 22, 2017 at 08:43 AM

JW

Even though I did not attend Dharma friends for a long time, I definitely remember Bill. I remember his kind smile, warmth and gentle manner and I am saddened to hear of his loss. Sending love out to the Dharma Friends community and family and friends of Bill.

Jennifer Woods

Jennifer Woods - March 09, 2017 at 07:56 PM

AH

So sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Your wit & interesting hats will be missed!

Alexander Hall

Alexander Hall - March 17, 2017 at 01:21 PM

FM

Bill is a very kind and a loving person. He will be missed by many.

Frank Miao

frank miao - March 17, 2017 at 09:23 PM

G.

I was saddened to hear of Bill's passing. I always very much enjoyed our conversations when our paths did cross. He will be missed.

G.Barnes - March 21, 2017 at 05:52 PM

JM

“*My condolences go to Bon and Jim/Beth and family. Bill will be missed by many friends. We will gather on March 18th, 2017 to celebrate his life. Details will be shared when confirmed. Bill taught me how to use a computer in graduate school at OISE/UT. He was a supportive friend and he always called when he was hospitalized and invited me to visit him. Jody Macdonald*

Jody Macdonald - February 10, 2017 at 08:10 PM