



Jay Kloss

October 7, 1948 - June 19, 2010

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(No Obituary Text Available)

Tribute Wall

DA

“ I first met Jay at a party over 20 years ago when he had returned to St. Louis for a few years before moving to Madison. He probably introduced himself and we quickly learned we had common interests in the arts, being active in politics, fighting for the both the environment & human rights, and eating a healthy diet. We were both interested in creative fields. Jay much more strongly in the performing arts (specifically... writing and attending musicals), myself, in the visual arts... (specifically photography). After he moved, for most of the years we frequently had very long conversations on the phone sometimes lasting for several hours talking about personal & current events, many times continuing long after we tried to say "goodbye" a few times. Through many of these talks I feel we reinforced each other's passions to get involved in politics, sometimes doing our own small part, mostly by contacting, or contributing to, the election of our leaders, influencing the world, helping to make it a better and just place for all. Whenever he called, he would usually either leave a distinctively Jay greeting on my answer machine... one of his favorites being: "Happy New Year!" (any time of the year) or,when I, (or my wife) answered, he would usually kindly start our conversation by asking "How are you?" (not simply as a greeting, but rather truly wanting to know), or if I seemed stressed, showing genuine concern asking "Is everything alright?" He loved sharing with me the great movies, musicals, and recordings he was currently enjoying as well as the new foods he had discovered. He also influenced me in his recycling and environmental efforts always promoting organic and vegetarian health benefits. I found our conversations intellectually stimulating because both Jay & I would both challenge each other when our viewpoints differed. Many times we would endlessly debate the semantics of particular words in the language, something Jay took very seriously as a writer. These conversations reinforced how language is important, especially in framing any political or moral debate about our world. I also challenged myself to help Jay whenever he needed technical help with his electronic media through the years. I felt good that although he was sometimes resistant (as anyone with a strong mind might be, I encouraged and

helped him have the confidence to gradually adopt newer technologies and habits. When we both got e-mail, it helped us communicate more frequently. Since I rarely delete any of my e-mails, I was able to obtain a count of our communications since I bought my most recent computer, almost exactly 2 years ago. Searching for "Jay Kloss" in both my sent & inbox produced over one thousand separate e-mails! I also will never forget the two trips I made with his folks to visit Jay in Madison. Besides enjoying the company, I built a large part of my photo book collection while shopping there, and I'll always remember the side trips to Taliesin and House on the Rock tourist attractions. Jay's enthusiasm really showed when in return, I gave him a tour of the renewed parts of St. Louis the last time he visited. He was looking forward to a return trip here after he completed his planned move to Vermont. I will also always take encouragement from Jay by never forgetting how full of confidence he could be when he set his mind to doing something big such as buying his first home, moving to a new city, or planning trips alone to Europe, even if he did not know exactly how, instead of worrying about the obstacles, he trusted that he could somehow muddle through getting the help he needed until he reached his goal. As Jay's best friend (something he felt he needed to remind me of many times through the years) I will miss him dearly. I think those that were part of his life can take comfort in that he seemed to get his last wish, partly determining his own fate about how and when he would rather his time on earth ended. With Love, ... David

David Altman - June 25, 2010 at 12:00 AM