



JOEL MATTHEW LEVISE

February 28, 1968 - August 24, 2020

PRIVATE GRAVESIDE SERVICE: 1:00 PM WEDNESDAY 8/26/2020 at
MACHPELAH CEMETERY.

A RECORDING OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE
APPROXIMATELY 2:30 PM WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. AT THAT TIME,
PLEASE GO TO THE PHOTO AND VIDEO SECTION OF THIS WEBPAGE
AND CLICK ON THE VIDEO.

Age 52, of Southfield, died August 24, 2020.

Beloved son of Susan Bilsky and William Levis.

Loving brother of Dawn (Mark Ellison) Levis.

Also survived by many other loving relatives and friends.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi David Polter

INTERMENT:

Machpelah Cemetery

SHIVA:

to be decided

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of
JOEL LEVISE

you may do so by making a contribution to:

MICHIGAN GREYHOUND CONNECTION

P.O. BOX 725384

Berkley, MI 48072

www.michgreys.com

or

A CHARITY OF YOUR CHOICE

Previous Events

Service

AUG **26**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Machpelah Cemetery
21701 Woodward Avenue
Ferndale, MI 48220

Tribute Wall

SF

“ I knew Joel at SL but didn't see him often. He walked into the music room one day while I was sitting at the piano. I played a pretty cheesy version of “Gonna Fly Now” from Rocky. Given his musical skill I thought he'd laugh but instead he said he dug it! Made me feel good. I'll always remember him as a kind dude with a big smile. I'm sure he will be greatly missed by many who will rock on in his memory. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

Steve Frishman
SL '86

Steve Frishman - September 02, 2020 at 10:38 PM

SS

“ My husband and I hosted many Dungeon and Dragon Games at our home and came to know Joel well. He was so talented and a pleasure to talk with. Our sons, Michael, Jonathon and Matthew Hoff are all saddened by this loss. May Joel's memory always be a Blessing to all that mourn his tragic loss.

sharon and jeff strichartz - September 01, 2020 at 12:55 PM

DL

“ This is a post no one ever wants to write. 😞

My dear brother Joel passed away in the early morning hours on Monday, August 24. It was unexpected and natural causes.

We are heart broken, shocked and devastated. 💔

The lock down due to coronavirus was hard on him earlier this year. But he persevered and adjusted like everyone else. Participating in zoom open mic nights instead of live open mic nights, etc.

He was an English professor by trade, guitar and poetry was his passion.

Watching him and his band Ruby Keeps Burning performing was amazing. I created the website for them which is still up with their original songs and pics. After RKB split up he formed a new band and was very active in the Detroit music scene performing regularly at 2 different open mic venues.

He was in really good spirits lately. So thankful when things started opening back up and he could participate in rehearsals, open mic nights and his Dungeon & Dragons game again.

He was active in the "Detroit will Breathe" movement. He had a bright future and was looking forward to teaching in the fall.

I am so thankful I just spent a wonderful day with him and my mom last week. We reminisced and took a walk to Vandenberg, our old elementary school. It was a beautiful day filled with laughs, and I am so grateful for that.

Please take a moment to read all the beautiful tributes to him on his wall and on the Hebrew Memorial website. It is a testament as to how many people he has inspired and influenced over the years.

I love you and miss you my dear brother. 💔🎸💜





Dawn Levis - August 28, 2020 at 08:30 PM



that's trajic. how did he die?

Hassan Mindahye - May 13, 2021 at 09:17 PM

KK

“ Dawn,
I'm so sorry for your loss. My sister Jodi was good friends with Joel growing up back in the Vandenberg days. I watched the video of the service, and all that you said was so beautiful and touching. Rabbi Polter is a good friend of my family as well. My condolences go out to you, your mother, your father and all your relatives and friends. May Joel's memory be a blessing to all who knew him. Love, Keith Kingston

Keith Kingston - August 28, 2020 at 04:10 PM

DO

“ *I am sorry for your lose . Joel was talented and successful. He was taken much to young . I remember when Joel and Dawn was little Robyn and I baby sitting you both. Joel music and Poetry His memory will live on in us all. RIP*



donna - August 27, 2020 at 05:53 PM

CB

“ I was the Drum major at S/L. Joel was assigned to the drumline. Were he played Cymbals then bass drum. He was such big personality, I found out about his Guitar playing and asked,, OK, begged him to be my lead guitarist. Eventually he joined Eyes (our rock band) I killed during the solo in HELL IS FOR CHILDREN, by Pat Benetar. I'm on my drum set, in sheer aww if his talent and abilities to play nearly every song in our library. Just a true talent and great kid. My prayer to his mom & Pop and the rest of his family

Chuck Brooks - August 27, 2020 at 01:47 AM

TB

“ Susan and Dawn, I am so sorry for your loss. Know that you are in my thoughts. I only had the privilege of seeing Joel a handful of times at the MGC picnics but he was always full of life and had the best smile on his face. Rest In Peace Joel.

Theresa Boostrom - August 26, 2020 at 09:15 PM

BD

“ Susie and Dawn this is incomprehensible. Please know that you have the love and support of so many. Love you, Barbara and Marshall.

barbara disner - August 26, 2020 at 08:22 PM

CL

“ I am so, so sad to hear this news, and my heart is heavy for the grief his family and friends carry. I hired Joel to work in the Writing Center at Henry Ford College this past Fall. Through his teaching and his work in the Writing Center, he had a tremendous impact on his students and his coworkers. Joel, you mirrored back to me the hope and promise I had for our Writing Center, and I will hold a space for you there always. I'd like to leave words from my favorite poet, Marie Howe: I am living, I remember you. We remember you, we miss you. Thank you, to Joel's family, for sharing him with us for a time.

Chelsea Lonsdale - August 26, 2020 at 06:37 PM



“ Susan,
Please know that my prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.
Every time I saw Joel, he had the best smile on his face. He was always so nice to everyone around. I'm sure you will miss him.

Kathy Mayfield

Kathy Mayfield - August 26, 2020 at 05:39 PM

EH

“ Joel, you'll always be my captain. Whenever we greeted each other we would salute, that's how much you loved the hat. It was not until 43 years later out of the blue sky I stopped by Mainly to see Joel. I will never forget that day. you were special.

Eva Haase - August 26, 2020 at 04:32 PM

PH

Susan there are no words that can express the sorrow all of us feel for your loss. No parent expects to out live their child. The only time I ever saw my father cry was when my sister (at the same age as your son) passed; too young. I am holding you and yours in my heart and prayers.

Patty Hascall - August 27, 2020 at 08:56 AM

OT

“ 2 files added to the album *Graveside Service*



Otto - August 26, 2020 at 03:35 PM

ML

“ *I am so sorry to hear this heartbreaking news. My deepest sympathies to Susan and to Dawn. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Maureen LaFleur - August 26, 2020 at 03:10 PM

JB

“ *My deepest condolences to Joel's family. I hadn't seen him for years, but learned much from him musically, and have nothing but fond memories. He will always have a place in my heart.*

Jamie Berk - August 26, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ So sad to hear this news. Sending my love to Dawn and Sue. I have lovely memories of Joel as a little boy while Dawn and I hung out together those many years ago. You both are in my thoughts.
-Ida (Schuster) Benson

Ida Benson - August 26, 2020 at 09:36 AM

LB

“ Joel I can't believe this is real. My guy you are great (and I say you are because I still have your Energy. The wisdom I received is some that will always keep with me. Man I am hurt. But the energy that is surrounding me right now, is telling me everything is ok. So I am going to give a light smile to the sky, because I know you're smiling down on us.

lamanda brown - August 26, 2020 at 12:02 AM

BP

“ So I never had Joel as an instructor while attending DIME, but I had the pleasure of having many interactions with him at the New Way Open Mic. Joel sure could shred the guitar and you could expect to see him every Wednesday. So sorry for his family's loss, he genuinely was a great guy and the New Way Open Mic will just not be the same.

Brendan Peahl - August 25, 2020 at 10:02 PM

 Dan
Roth

“ My condolences to Joel's family during this time of mourning. Though time separated us, my memories and impressions of him from high school are strong and lasting. A bright spirit. Rest in Peace. - Dan Roth, Southfield-Lathrup Class of 1986.

Dan Roth - August 25, 2020 at 09:51 PM



“ *Rest In peace Joel! Give Marlon a hug for me!*

Scott MacGregor - August 25, 2020 at 09:42 PM

RF

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



ronald frank - August 25, 2020 at 09:09 PM

RF

Rockin out at Jim Mauneys Halloween party. Great times, great person and a great friend.

ronald frank - August 25, 2020 at 09:23 PM

KL

I am shocked by the announcement of Joel's passing. He was a gracious, loving, caring and kind gentleman. My heart felt prayers for Susan, Dawn and his many dear friends. May his memory be a blessing.

Ken Levis - August 25, 2020 at 10:01 PM

MC

“ *Stunned and heartbroken to hear this. Joel has always had a special place in my heart. My deepest condolences to his wonderful Mom and sister as well as the rest of his family and close friends. Much Love and Peace, Shelly Bunting*

Michelle Bunting - Cappellini - August 25, 2020 at 08:52 PM

JA

“ *The first day of kindergarten from left to Right*

Joel Levisé

Chris Kalfan

David Little

Jason Anstandig

Jeff Sefman

Joel, David, and I went from Kindergarten thru High School together



Jason Anstandig - August 25, 2020 at 06:38 PM

DH

Joel Levisé, Chris Kalfan, David Little, Jason Anstandig and Jeffrey Seifman

First day of Kindergarten

Donna Hurshe - August 25, 2020 at 07:57 PM

DH

Thank you Jason for finding and posting this picture

Donna Hurshe - August 25, 2020 at 07:57 PM

EH

Joel, You will always be my captain. A special name I gave him when he was a very young boy and he remembered it all these years. Out of the blue sky last year I stop by and I saw him after not seeing him for 45 years. Rest In Peace. you are special.

Eva Haase - August 26, 2020 at 04:20 PM

SC

“ Joel’s has been a faculty member at DIME Detroit for a number of years. Raising eyebrows, touching hearts, opening up the English language to many young minds ... a life taken too soon.

Sarah Clayman - August 25, 2020 at 06:17 PM

RM

“ He will forever be in my heart, musically, and as a brother. Rest In Peace brother Joel.

Robert Meltzer - August 25, 2020 at 04:55 PM

NZ

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Joel's passing. We had only reconnected on facebook in the last few years, but I have fond memories of him from high school. My deepest sympathies go out to his family.
Nicolette Zachary

Nicolette Zachary - August 25, 2020 at 04:40 PM

SU

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Susan - August 25, 2020 at 03:21 PM

SU

Joel and Jake. They loved each other so much.

Susan - August 25, 2020 at 03:22 PM

DH

Sue, so very sorry to hear this. Jason just called and told me. There are no words.

Donna Hurshr - August 25, 2020 at 04:04 PM

JA

So sad to hear this, we have been out of touch for many years unfortunately, but never forgotten, inseparable from kindergarten thru middle school. I have a photo of us on our first day of kindergarten.

A great person with a great personality

Jason Anstandig - August 25, 2020 at 04:10 PM

RH

I was good friends with Joel back in high school in band, and we had been talking lately again. I am so crushed to hear this. My condolences to your family.

Russ Herschler - August 25, 2020 at 04:39 PM

JL

Much love to Sue and Dawn, so very, very sorry. Love and prayers and tremendous sorrow for the loss of my brilliant nephew.

Jane Levisé

Jane Levisé - August 25, 2020 at 04:57 PM

DG

“*I'm so very sorry to hear of this news. My heart goes out to you, Sue, and your entire family right now. Keeping you all in my heart and prayers.*”

Donna M Graham - August 25, 2020 at 01:11 PM

BE

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ben - August 25, 2020 at 12:36 PM

SU

Thanks Ben.

susan - August 25, 2020 at 02:47 PM

JK

So very sorry to hear about Joel.

Alan and Joyce Kaczander

Joyce Kaczander - August 25, 2020 at 03:45 PM

RP

I have fond memories of listening to Joel and my Brother Keith talk around a fire in the clearing behind my Parents house. They were both deep thinkers and developed a lasting friendship even though Keith was his uncle.

Joel also became friends with my husband and at family get-togethers they would hang out together. That led to Joel becoming a friend to one of my Husbands friends. It seems he was always developing relationships.

Joel was always kind to me. I am going to miss him very much and only wish we had more time together.

Robin Peabody

Robin Peabody - August 25, 2020 at 10:05 PM

MM

Such a sweet man, he will truly be missed. Prayers to his Family.
Mona McSwain

Mona McSwain - August 25, 2020 at 11:36 PM

MO

Sue and Dawn, Please accept our condolences. We were so sorry to hear this. Mim and Mike

Mim Ondercin - August 26, 2020 at 04:27 PM

RC

Such a nice man ! So sorry to hear about this my condolences to friends and family.

Randy Caballero - August 26, 2020 at 07:17 PM