

Mike Levy – RIP

by Lanky (Helena) Levy

From: Lanky Levy

Sent: Sunday, June 08, 2014 9:53 PM

Mike passed away today after a short illness of chronic lung failure due to pulmonary fibrosis. The cremation will be Monday at 10 a.m. at Shalom Memorial in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Just to let you know that Mike Levy passed away yesterday in Chicago. He suffered a respiratory infection and two days ago, rallied, but that was just before the end. So, it's another class mate who is no longer with us. I wonder if any of the other years have had so many of their class mates pass away.
René (Chait) Sidley

Mike was born 12th March, 1945, son of Lou and Bubbles Levy, sister of Michelle. He attended Fairmount and Northview schools, as did so many of us living in the Sydenham area. In this way, he had lifelong friends, some of whom have now passed on too. Willie Stolzenberg and Barry Eber were his buddies, and they are no doubt having a good natter and drinking Captain Morgan somewhere 'on the 19th hole' "upstairs". Joel Bernstein and Max Salminis were mates, keeping in regular touch.

Mike lived a full life especially in later years with his four grandchildren.

Strangely enough, you all remember Mike as your peer, but in actual fact he matriculated a year later (Class of '63) after staying back a year with Barry Eber and waited for me!!

The love and support we have had from his friends is overwhelming and he would have been surprised that so many people loved and respected him and knew all about him. Mike was a kind, sweet soul and we will miss his steadfastness and pragmatism and his strong friendship for everyone. He never forgot a face, and always put a name to it. He reminisced often about school years and his best friends were those with whom he had grown up with from early childhood. He was the best friend anyone could have had.

Below is the Eulogy for Mike delivered by his wife, Lanky:

Mike and I met when we were at school, he was 16, I was 14 and we married in 1967, young by today's standards. Our children were born while we were young and we all grew up together.

You all knew Mike as a quiet man. He was a gentle soul who liked to sit quietly and watch the world go by. But he was a complex person, a man of deep convictions and definite likes and dislikes. When he did make a statement, it was usually something quite profound!

He disliked being cold. He would always say that he should be cremated and his ashes spread somewhere warm. He hated the thought of being buried in the ground. He said we should have a party and not sit shiva. We'll grant him two out of three wishes!

Mike had many hobbies. Fly Fishing, flying his plane, golf, picture framing. He liked to hang out with his friends, of which he had many with whom he had grown up.

He loved animals and the game parks and the hot arid climate where he would go as a child with his parents and later take his own children. He loved searching for semi-precious stones, and would go into the deserts in Namibia and Botswana to find specimens.

He was not a religious man, but believed in sincerity, kindness, honesty and integrity. This after all is what human nature should be about. A business deal was struck with a handshake and his integrity never wavered. He was always honest and forthright and his word was his bond. He was actually known as an honest scrap dealer!!

Mike was a mensch.

We will miss his sweet smile, his gentle nature and his warm friendship even to the stray people he used to bring home. He once brought home a guy, and the only way we could get rid of him a year later was to sell the house with him in it!!

Goodbye Mikey - .you will always be in our hearts.

We love you.

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