



Thomas Ray Christensen

August 4, 1947 - April 23, 2018

Mineral Point - Thomas Ray Christensen, age 70, passed away on Monday, April 23, 2018 doing one of the things he loved most – yard work at his mother's home in Darlington, WI.

"Tom C. grew up in an agribusiness family and spent the greatest part of his childhood in the enchanting woods above and thick brambles along the muddy Pecatonica River. Rugged rock outcroppings, signatures of this magical Driftless Area of SW Wisconsin, added drama to the woods, and his imagination. While he had those dear friends that the best of childhood is accompanied by, he always seemed to see things, feel things, wonder about things, a long way beyond what his friends recognized when he tried to share with them. He left Luther College in his third semester, to find the fundamental answers that god had to have made available to anyone, not just to students in the cornfields of NE Iowa. That journey is a book in itself, but in short, has led him around the world, to teachers, lovers, healers, yogis, shamans, strangers with huge hearts and experiences that left him living in the largest circle of belonging humans have available," wrote Tom in the foreword of his forthcoming poetry book.

Born August 4, 1947 in Darlington, WI, Tom went on to attend Luther College to study and play basketball. Upon leaving college early, he enlisted in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Returning to Wisconsin following his service, he

settled in Madison and studied Philosophy, Religion, Art, South East Asian Studies and Counseling Psychology as an undergraduate and graduate student at the University of Wisconsin. After ending his formal studies, Tom continued his quest for knowledge on his own up until the very end of his life, ultimately becoming an active member of the Gravesian Theory and Metamodernist communities of thought.

Tom was a thinker, scholar, gifted writer, dreamer, entrepreneur, realtor, salesman (from Bobcats and kitchenware to innovative technology), artist, boogie-woogie piano player, spiritual seeker, teacher, basketball player, mentor, friend, veteran, husband, father, member of many community organizations, lover of animals, the guy with the little rubber animals and so much more. He was many things to many people. You could often find him dancing down the streets of Madison on his rollerblades rocking out to his walkman or working with plants in his lush magical garden at 1243 Jenifer St or more recently his new home in Mineral Point that gave him such pride. He was captivating and knew how to draw people into his playful world, especially children. He never lost his sense of childlike wonder at the miraculous beauty in everything. He was genuinely interested in talking with people and hearing their stories, offering advice and help whenever he was able. He was loved dearly by many and will live on in the hearts of all he touched as a powerful inspiration to live life to the fullest.

Tom was preceded in death by his father, Harry J Christensen. He is survived by his wife Stephanie Kessenich, mother Gladys Christensen, sister Cheryl Christensen (Sue Scott), sons Kier, Toffer (Hsiao Mei Chou), and Andrew Christensen, daughter Kara Christensen, step-children Monica, Nick, and Dylan Remis, and grandchildren Koll and Adderley Christensen and TuHoi and Heleke.

A Celebration of Tom's life will be held Sunday, April 29, from 2-4 PM at his

home in Mineral Point, WI, at 205 Merry Christmas Lane.

The family asks in lieu of flowers to please plant a tree, feed the birds, or otherwise take in all that mother nature has to offer, in Tom's honor.

Tribute Wall



“ *Thomas Ray Christensen*

November 15, 2022 at 06:49 AM



“ *Although its been many years that I've seen or communicated with Tom, it saddens me to think I will never run into him again. I knew him from seminars we attended. He was always seeking, always engaged and interested. It makes me smile to think when my husband and I planned to get married 34 years ago, Tom let us know he had his license as ordained minister (mail order). We didn't hesitate to ask him to officiate our wedding. Looking back, he was so respectful. It is an honor that he married us. Rest In Peace, friend.*

Jean Spella - June 05, 2018 at 10:46 AM



“ *Tom was a lovely soul who also had a brilliant mind. I appreciated our wonderful dialogues on Spiral Dynamics integral, Clare Graves & Don Beck that reached through to our chats about life in general. I am just one of many around the world who will remember Tom's intelligence, kindness and passion for knowledge. We will miss you, Tom.*

Laura Frey Horn - June 05, 2018 at 10:46 AM



“ *Tom was a true Renaissance Man! I've never known anyone quite like him- so many talents- such curiosity and a zest for life. Heaven may be brighter with his presence, but we are left with a void. We will miss him very much.*

Sherry Wilde - June 05, 2018 at 10:46 AM

MV

“ *Thomas Ray Christensen*

Marga VALA - June 05, 2018 at 10:46 AM

JM

“ *I got to know Tom through the Spiral Dynamics community - especially a few years ago when I contributed a chapter to one of his excellent books. He was a most enthusiastic, intelligent and caring colleague. Every interaction with Tom was uplifting and kind - he will be deeply missed. Sending my love, condolences and best wishes to his family and friends. Jordan*

Jordan MacLeod - April 28, 2018 at 01:09 AM