



Gary Loren Barnes

JUL 19, 1938 - MAR 12, 2016



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Gary Loren Barnes

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Gary Loren Barnes, 77, passed away at his home March 12, 2016 following a long illness, with his wife, Paula, at his side. He celebrated 36 years of marriage to Paula on March 8, 2016.

Gary was born in Hutchinson, Kansas July 19, 1938 to Elmer “Bus” Leland Barnes and Jessie Mae Mustain Newburn. In addition to this wife, he is survived by his sisters, Rita Dunn of Wichita, KS and Judy Watson of Monet, MO; brother, Dennis Michael Barnes of Myrtle Creek, OR; sister, Debbie Lacombe of Medford, OR; his children, Wendy Barnes-Tarrant and husband, Greg of Marietta, GA, Kenny Barnes of Fairfax, VA, Gina Hopkins and husband, Linton of Atlanta, GA, Marco Valdez of San Pedro, CA, Shawn Valdez of Fredericksburg, VA, and Shirley Donahue and husband, Chuck of Fredericksburg, VA. He is also survived by grandchildren, Madison Barnes, Linton Hopkins, Kenny Barnes Jr, Avery Hopkins, Moira Donahue, Mckenzie Barnes, Corwyn Donahue, Elysia Barnes and Joaquin Valdez; and great-granddaughter, Ryan Aubrey Barnes.

He was preceded in death by Irene Sigler, mother of Wendy, Kenny and Gina.

Gary wore many hats throughout his life. He was in the Navy, serving as a sonarman on the minesweeper U.S.S. Esteem and proud that boat came back in service from Desert Storm. Gary later served as a radar tech in the Air Force, stationed at Incirlik Airbase, Turkey. Gary was humble about his duty years, when told “Thank you for your service” he would reply “Thank you for my career training and opportunities.” Building on this experience, Gary’s career in electronics took him all around the world- working for Global Marine on the research vessels Glomar Challenger and Glomar Explorer. Settling in Fredericksburg with Paula and family, he later retired from Raytheon and worked for the Stafford County IT dept. for 16 years. Beyond his career, he also brought joy as he volunteered more than 1500 hours at Mary Washington Hospital, where he got a kick out of “Pushing people around and telling them where to go.”

A shy man by nature, he stretched his boundaries by participating with the Virginia Renaissance Faire across two decades. He brought delight to cast and patrons alike, spinning sea stories (of sea



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serpents and mermaids and such) as Randy Stubbs- a salty seafarer who taught Sir Francis Drake all he knows. He also inspired and starred in *The Other Wise Man*, a story that was near to his heart at his Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fredericksburg.

Gary was a passionate poet, artist, philosopher, and photographer. Known as Soji, he was part of a worldwide community of haiku poets and shared his poetry online at his site, Haiku Poet's Hut (haikupoetshut.com). He shared his thoughts on life, the universe, and everything at Open Spiritual Mind Center (openmindcenter.com) In all parts of his life, he was a teacher, a guide, and strived to make the world a more positive and loving place. He had a goal to make at least 3 people smile every day.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 6pm, Friday, April 8, 2016 at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fredericksburg.

Memorials may be made to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fredericksburg Memorial Garden Fund, 25 Chalice Circle, Fredericksburg VA 22405.

“Sometime in the next 24 hours the universe is going to show off just for you. It could be something spectacular or something as simple as your everyday coffee tasting especially rich this morning. Take a moment to appreciate the gift, the universe likes to know you're paying attention; in fact may seem to gift you more often. Enjoy your day(s).” –Soji (Gary)

Online condolences may be expressed to the family at foundandsons.com.





Events

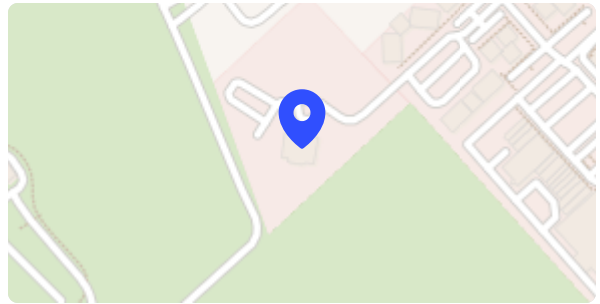
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Celebration

 **Friday**, April 8, 2016

 6:00 PM ET

 **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Fredericksburg**
25 Chalice Circle, Fredericksburg VA 22405





Tribute Wall

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PB

Paula Barnes lit a candle in honor of Gary.

May 29 at 4:52 PM



MD

Maureen Davidson posted:

I worked down the hall from Gary while he was in IT and I was in the finance department. He was so cheerful, and always had time to stop and chat. He loved his family so much. My husband and I saw him in character at the Virginia Renaissance Faire. What a character! He was always kind and thoughtful. He said something to me once when I was wishing for something in the future - he said his mother had told him, "Don't wish your life away." So wise! My condolences to Paula and his entire family.

April 8 at 4:42 AM

PB

Paula Barnes May 29 at 4:52 PM

Maureen, Thank you for your beautiful note.

JS

Jane Sutherland posted:

I worked with Gary for 15 years at Stafford County. Gary always had a smile on his face and a spring in his step! He shared many funny and interesting stories about his life but what he loved the most was his wife Paula, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchild. I miss him every day! Jane Sutherland

April 6 at 11:27 AM

PB

Paula Barnes April 7 at 9:00 PM

You are a gentle soul, Jane, he cared so much for you and your family. Thank you for your kind words.



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Kathy Hildebrand posted:

I met Gary at Stafford County where we worked. He made the days more enjoyable with his humor and stories. I will miss him! Kathy Hildebrand

April 5 at 4:58 AM



Paula Barnes April 7 at 9:02 PM

Thank you Kathy, I hope to see you soon.



Mary Flanders posted:

Although I never met Gary, I have been a longtime friend of his sister, Rita. Rita lives in Kansas and loved traveling to see him. I am happy she was able to spend time with him recently. She loved him dearly.

March 29 at 1:00 PM



Paula Barnes March 30 at 10:55 AM

We love Rita and her visits, thank you for your care .



Linda Gillispie posted:

It breaks my heart to hear that Gary had passed away. I only knew hear him from working at Stafford. We would usually run into each other in the elevator. Never oncedid I see him that he wasn't smiling and was so upbeat. He was a wonderful person and I am sure he will be missed by many. Prayers and thoughts to his family.Sincerely,Linda Gillispie

March 28 at 5:16 AM



Damara April 4 at 3:32 AM

Gary was a kind man with a great attitude about life. I greatly enjoyed reading his haiku poetry. He will be missed. I know this from my time working with him at Stafford County.



Paula Barnes March 28 at 10:40 AM

Thank you, Linda, he would dance down the grocery aisle and then turn to make sure I was watching, 38 years of wonderful. Joy to you.



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Paula Barnes sent a virtual gift in honor of Gary.



March 26 at 4:20 AM



Paula Barnes posted:

Gary as Soji wrote..ten thousand poets have viewed ten thousand moonsthis poet, just oneSoji

March 26 at 3:33 AM



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Found And Sons Funeral Chapels - Cremation Service shared an album called **Memories Album**.



March 25 at 11:44 AM

- PB** **Paula Barnes** March 30 at 10:57 AM
Chris, so nice to hear from you, I have been thinking of you and the fun productions you helped Shirley with, so fortunate to have had Fredericksburg Family Theater in our life.
- CR** **Chris Rizer** March 29 at 10:08 AM
Paula, everyone is so right he was a joy to be around! He was so proud of you and loved you deeply and all of his family!
- PB** **Paula Barnes** March 28 at 10:39 AM
Thank you, Lee, the moon was particularly beautiful this month!
- LC** **Lee Criscuolo** March 28 at 4:31 AM
Gary was always up for a costume party! Or any party. I clearly remember him dancing at one of my bonfires in the middle of a circle of women. The song playing was "It's Raining Men." None of the other men there would dance, but Gary was a dancer! Last year, you shared with me that after one of his hospital stays his goal was to dance again, and he did dance again. I saw him dancing at the UU fire pit while the music group folks were playing. I was so glad to see it! He was always such a joy to be with. So playful and kind-hearted. I've teared up many times the last 2 weeks. We're all going to miss him. He was a very very special man. Much love to you, Paula.
- ST** **Stew** March 27 at 7:40 AM
Gary will be missed by all who knew him. And what a truly great obit! It has Gary's spirit throughout and is a wonderful reminder of the inspiration he brought to those with whom he had contact.
- PB** **Paula Barnes** March 27 at 5:41 AM
He was the newly divorced Buck with many wives names xd out of his fake tatoos, I was Bambi his Bimbo girlfriend. It was so much fun!
- MB** **Mary Jane Bohlen** March 26 at 8:38 PM
Dear Paula, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I was saddened to read that Gary had passed on. I will never forget that Halloween night when we were downtown at a restaurant the name which I can't remember-----so long ago. I just remember the many laughs and such a fun evening. I don't know if I've laughed that much since. Gary came as a worker on an oil rig and played the part so well. God rest his soul and may you be at peace. Much love heading your way. Mary Jane Bohlen



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Paula Barnes March 26 at 8:47 AM

Soji wrote long winters nightgazing into hearth flames, faces of friends gone ahead



Sara Toye March 26 at 5:57 AM

Just one of the "many hats" he wore. He will be sorely missed.



Media

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Found And Sons Funeral Chapels - Cremation Service shared a photo to the **Memories Album** album.

March 25 at 11:44 AM



Sara Toye March 26 at 5:57 AM

Just one of the "many hats" he wore. He will be sorely missed.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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