



Barry (Gus) Robert Meckley

May 28, 1950 - June 25, 2024

Barry (Gus) Robert Meckley, 74, of Millersville, PA, shuffled off this mortal coil on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. He died suddenly of natural causes at home. Born in Lancaster, PA to Robert Earl and Eileen Fay (Stone) Meckley, he grew up in Mount Joy. Early in life, Barry acquired the name “Gus” from his grandmother, which was the name by which many knew him. A 1968 graduate of Donegal High School, he earned a degree in English from Millersville University. His primary working career was with surveying and engineering firms (J.C. Engineering/Surveying, Reney Brothers, D.C. Gohn, J. Haines Shertzer). Other work included plumbing, cabinetmaking, and bookselling.

Gus was a Renaissance man: culinary savant, fruit and vegetable gardener, soccer enthusiast, beer trip scout, trivia team ringleader, book club contrarian, discerning cinephile, and voracious reader. He immersed himself in and was knowledgeable about a wide range of music and film. He played guitar and sang. He truly believed in the power of the pen and usually told the right joke at the right time. He unabashedly valued parsimony.

A host of close friends remember his intelligence and kindness, diverse interests and talents, measured wit and wry sense of humor, and treasure the depth of his friendship. He maintained connections with friends in New England for over 50 years.

Family members cherish all he was as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, nephew, and cousin. He was devoted to his family. Gus is survived by his wife of 52 years, Alice (Kleiner) Meckley, a daughter, Maria Dickson (Andrew), a son, Samuel Meckley, two beloved grandsons, Marcus and Luca Dickson as well as his sister, Debra Meckley (Michael Eshleman), brother, Ronald Meckley (Tina), sister-in-law, Christine Meckley (Jeffrey), aunt, Helen Wells (Baxter), and uncle, Dave Young (Mary Jane), as well as a healthy collection of nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Jeffrey Meckley, his nephew, Jeffrey Meckley, Jr. as well as a number of aunts and uncles.

A service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 47 West Main Street, Mount Joy, PA 17552 on Wednesday, July 3, 2024 beginning at 11:00 AM. Family and friends will be welcomed at the church before the service from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. In lieu of flowers, send Irish whiskey. In lieu of Irish whiskey, consider making a donation to Gus's preferred charity, Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org – please indicate "Barry R. Meckley" on the donation).

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 3. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
47 W Main St
Mount Joy, PA 17552
<https://trinitymountjoy.org/>

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Trinity Lutheran Church
47 W Main St
Mount Joy, PA 17552
<https://trinitymountjoy.org/>

Tribute Wall

RH

“ *Robert R Hemstock lit a candle in memory of Barry (Gus) Robert Meckley*



Robert R Hemstock - July 23, 2024 at 07:19 PM

PR

“ *Patricia Rodriguez lit a candle in memory of Barry (Gus) Robert Meckley*



Patricia Rodriguez - June 28, 2024 at 10:26 PM

“ We have a hole in our hearts, as friends in Maine “from away” who have known Gus, and Alice, for over 50 years. Gus was as loyal and cherished a friend as any we have ever had. As one who appreciated irony among so many other things, he would appreciate that the outsized impact he had on us was due to the myriad gifts and talents he shared with us, wrapped in his honest and open, genuinely humble and unpretentious nature. Of course Gus, were he still here, would be loathe to own up to any of this if it shaded into lionizing him in any way.

He had no reason to hear himself talk, yet thought a lot about a lot of things. He routinely offered us well-honed thoughts, including literary questions, as kitchen-table conversation-starters. He delighted in a good talk with good friends. Sharing so much of himself, he made things personal in the best way. He shared his hopes, fears, and disappointments more than most anyone we knew.

We were gifted, far more even than we knew at the time, with a visit from Alice and Gus just last week, a road trip underscoring as they have for decades their loyalty to our enduring friendships and the lengths they would go to continue to nurture it. As Katherine has had health problems and we were initially concerned about our hosting capacity, Gus by phone sought to reassure us by reminding us “perhaps you have forgotten how underwhelming we are.”

During the visit, we talked about the last line of a Mary Oliver poem he’d said he’d hoped we might discuss, as he thought it might be widely misinterpreted. As a group, we concurred with his thought that “Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life” was more about the importance of paying attention from moment to moment than a more grandiose injunction to “Seize the Day” That same day, Gus and I paddled kayaks out onto Trenton Narrows here by Acadia, felt the sun & breeze, watched the gulls and cormorants take off and land, and the seal head bob, spoke little, shared some moments. Poetry, indeed, helped inform

his life.

After they Alice and Gus left, we re-read a February letter Gus had hand-written us (Who still does that?) referencing "my favorite quote lately (and a potential epitaph)" he'd read in someone else's obituary: "If I'm going to be remembered I guess I'd like to be remembered as someone who did less harm than he was capable of." We can understand why Gus might like that so much, but in fairness, it would vastly understate all the goodness, joy and wisdom Gus brought to this world and to us all.

Also on their last trip here, Gus said to Katherine, "I feel like I'm a better person for having known you." Back at you, Gus; we feel the same about Alice, as well. We wrap our arms around Alice and Maria and Sam and the rest of Gus' family.

*Dennis Chinoy, Katherine Kates
Bangor, ME*

dennis chinoy/katherine kates - June 28, 2024 at 01:37 PM

JS

“ I remember "Gus" as Barry Meckley. We were enrolled in Mr. Sarbaugh's fifth-sixth grade class. He was brilliant. I sat beside the beautiful Alice in junior high school because she also played the flute. Dear Alice and the entire Meckley extended family, please accept my condolences on losing this wonderful and caring peer.
Jessica A. Sheetz-Nguyen

Jessica Ann Sheetz-Nguyen - June 28, 2024 at 10:33 AM

MK

“ Gus was truly a Renaissance man. The obituary was beautifully written. The line, "shuffled off this mortal coil," gave me a chuckle and Gus would like that. The tribute, "beer trip scout, trivia team ringleader and book club contrarian" also made me smile. Gus was simply the finest man I have known. I will miss his friendship greatly. I am so much a better person for having known Gus. And Gus, there will be legends of people looking up the correct definition of "parsimony." Gus always was able to choose the right word. Intelligence and kindness are mostly how I will remember Gus. I will never forget what a genuinely fine man he was. Gus also had a great love of poetry. As Emily Dickinson once wrote: "Forever is composed of nows...that will never come again." Those "nows" for me will be the many great memories I have for this beautiful man. And now, I must begin to work on my toast for Gus. Yes, Gus it will be with Redbreast Irish whiskey and my love for having known you. Mike Kaufhold, an admirer and friend.

Mike Kaufhold - June 27, 2024 at 02:37 PM