



Lewis Hudson "Lew" Keith

January 10, 1951 - December 18, 2018

Lewis Hudson "Lew" Keith, 67, of McPherson, Kansas, passed away at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 18th, 2018 unexpectedly, at his home, McPherson, Kansas.

Lew was born in Fargo, North Dakota on January 10, 1951, a son of the late Marion Allison (Steward) and Kenneth Monroe Keith.

Lew attended up to the 4th grad at the Oak Knoll grade schools in Minneapolis, Minnesota and then Fergus Falls grade school, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, in 1963 the family moved to McPherson where Lew attended Junior High School and graduated from McPherson High School in 1969. He then attended McPherson College where he received his bachelors of arts degree in Sociology, Psychology, and a minor in applied organ and piano. He graduated Magna cum laud. While in college Lew worked in the foreign language department with the foreign student exchange program.

He was a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ McPherson. Lew was a former member of the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Through the years, Lew was a on air personality, was an account executive, and sold advertisement for KNEX which later became KBBE Radio Station for which he was responsible for signing it on the air and overseeing its operations. He was a development director for KHCC public radio in Hutchinson, Kansas and helped lay the ground work for the expansion which later became Radio Kansas. Lew later worked in many capacities for M.C.D.S., a private facility that serves individuals with developmental disabilities, He was the first person in Kansas to mainstream individuals into their own residences, later he became a case manager with the responsibility of developing programs of training and serving as an advocate by gathering the support people to foster greater independence in the community. Lew was also an Antiques and Collectibles dealer.

Lew was a founding father and served as president of the McPherson Theatre Guild which started in the summer of 1972 and was in at least 30 theatre productions. He has played

in almost every church in town in the capacity as organist or pianist. Lew served on the board of Broadway R.F.D. and had sung 25 years in the Bethany College Oratory Society and a couple highlights of this was being in a PBS broadcast and singing in Carnegie Hall in New York City where he was a stringer and a photographer for the Lindsborg News Record. Lew enjoyed photography and had several shows and entered several competitions winning first Place in Discover Lindsborg.

He is survived by a special friend Annette Karr of McPherson, Kansas; his DPOA, Vaughn Ingram and his wife Diane, of McPherson, Kansas. He is also survived by many friends, cohorts, and accomplices.

Lew was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Marion Keith; and his sister, Genevieve Marion "Genny" Keith

Memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, January 19, 2019 at New Gottland Lutheran Church rural McPherson, Kansas, with Rev. Harry Grinstad and Rev. Warren R. Schoming officiating.

Memorials are suggested to M.C.D.S in memory of Lew and they can be sent in care of the Glidden - Ediger Funeral Home; 222 West Euclid Street; McPherson, Kansas 67460.

Events

JAN **Memorial Service** 11:00AM
19

New Gottland Lutheran Church
1822 17th Avenue, McPherson, KS, US, 67460

Comments



“ My parents were close friends with Lew. I have fond memories of him playing on our baby grand piano, him playing any show tune you could request and friends singing around the piano until the wee hours of the night. I was allowed to stay up a little later to sing and listen but I was always reluctant to be ushered to bed. When Lew was over, it was going to be a beautiful night of singing and adults laughing. I would sneak out of my room to listen for as long as I could. I can't remember the last time I saw him but am grateful for such fun memories.

Liz Zweigle Yee - January 03 at 09:27 PM



“ Bion and Vicki Beebe lit a candle in memory of Lewis Hudson "Lew" Keith



Bion and Vicki Beebe - December 29, 2018 at 12:37 PM



“ I met Lew when I was about 5 or 6 years old. My favorite role he played was in Anything Goes for Broadway RFD. We spent so many summers together doing theatre. He also taught me piano when he lived above Ebaugh's on Main Street. I loved hearing him play but I was never a dedicated piano student. I loved all of his trinkets and antiques and I asked one day if I could dust them for him. As I dusted them every week after piano lessons he would tell me about them. It was a great arrangement, he got some cleaning done and I was told wonderful stories about his "treasures". He was a one of a kind and will be missed.

Michaela Slaughter - December 29, 2018 at 12:47 AM



“ I had the privilege to sing with Lew in a couple of different Lindsborg vocal groups back in the day as well as the Messiah Oratorio Chorus. His musicality was a great gift to all as well as his sense of humor. RIP Lew.

Carol Gusenius - December 28, 2018 at 07:54 PM



“ When I used to cut Lews hair, I was always happy to see his name on the books. Hehad such a wonderful sense of humor and could tell a story that would bring tears to your eyes. The last time I saw him, we hugged and chatted briefly. Rest easy now. You will be missed. Cecilia Cunnick

Cecilia Cunnick - December 27, 2018 at 10:41 PM



“ Our heartfelt sympathy, thoughts, and prayers go out to Lewis Keith's Family & Friends.. I remember Lee as a good friend not only to my husband Frank Heart but to my four children; Selena Hernandez, Jazzy Heart, Frankie Heart, & Abby Heart and I (Loreeta Heart). He was like a grandfather to our four children. Not only was Lee a good friend to my husband Frank but, a good boss to him when, they both worked at MCDS in McPherson. I remember my youngest Abby always enjoyed his humor saying of Well them swinging cats are having a ball. She adored his charm and charisma he had. You had to leave us all way too soon!! You will definitely be missed, but our memories we once shared with you, will live in our hearts forever... Until we all meet again Lew.. R.I.P. Lewis "Lew" Hudson Keith!! :(



Loreeta Heart - December 24, 2018 at 03:44 PM



“ I first met Lew through the McPherson Theater Guild. Lew had a special place in my heart. His dry sense of humor made us all laugh. As director, I cast Lew as the lead in "Two by Two". I remember he was reluctant at first, but with encouragement he not only accepted the part but gave a masterful performance. I think he surprised was by the complements he received. As an actor, sharing the stage with Lew was challenging. The lines weren't always precise and he sometimes forgot his blocking. But I didn't care and neither did anyone else. Because he was a very unique and special guy. You were the starring character in a part of my life that I will never forget.

Kent Sallee - December 20, 2018 at 05:18 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Kent Sallee - December 20, 2018 at 05:01 PM



“ Kent - Thank you for sharing these photos. I had seen them when visiting Lew. What a treasure. And it's great to see his handwriting, too. I am feeling a great loss this Christmas.

Rob - December 24, 2018 at 03:54 PM



“ Lew was a cuddly giant, my friend. We met close to 40 years ago, doing Theatre, and He quickly became part of my family. We enjoyed doing plays together, singing/his piano or organ playing for weddings, funerals, and special events around town, family & friends gatherings, etc. We shared many laughs as well as some very serious talks. With all of his health issues over the years, he always seemed to keep his sense of humor. I'm so thankful the last memory of him, was seeing his smiling face at the new Italian restaurant downtown. Go in peace my dear friend, and I will raise my "big" glass (from you) TO YOU! You will be deeply missed.

All my love,
Louie



Louie Potts Peterson - December 20, 2018 at 12:21 PM



“ McPherson has lost one of its finest sons with the passing of Lew Keith. A gentle man of many talents and good humor. Farewell dear friend. Marla & Larry Elmquist

Marla & Larry Elmquist - December 20, 2018 at 11:41 AM