



John Fink

January 6, 1953 - July 19, 2022

John Erwin Fink, 69, of Cedar Falls, made the choice to take his own life on July 19, 2022.

He was born on January 6, 1953, in Iowa, the son of Erwin John and Anita Marion (Barr) Fink. John has been a constant thread in the downtown Cedar Falls community for 25-30 years. He worked on his Masters of English Literature at UNI from 1991 to 1993. He worked briefly as an adjunct instructor at Hawkeye Community College. He lived in the historic church building at the corner of 9th and Clay (former home of Cedar Falls Mennonite Church), serving as the caretaker and groundskeeper since the mid-1990s. The building will be demolished in the coming weeks.

John lived a full life with a vast network of friends and acquaintances. He smiled and waved to anyone he recognized as he biked past on his daily route of errands and visits. He loved music and played guitar – often outside on the church steps, or jamming with fellow musicians, or recording his own compositions (check out Mahatma Johnny). He nurtured lush gardens and shared his green thumb, as well as knowledge and ideas on natural health, societal issues and other concerns.

He will be missed by those who shared his life – including many who didn't know his name but appreciated his steadfast presence in the community.

A memorial service followed by an open mic night for John will be hosted for his friends and family in Gateway Park at the Sturgis Celebration Shelter on Friday, August 5, at 6 p.m. by Cedar Falls Mennonite Church. There will be music and prayers and time for sharing of memories. There will be picnic tables for seating, but feel free to bring your own. Dress will be casual.

Previous Events

Memorial service followed by an open mic night

AUG 5. 6:00 PM (CT)

Gateway Park - Sturgis Celebration Shelter
Lincoln St. & N Main St.
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Tribute Wall

MN

“ *Mahatma , you had so much wisdom to share. I have fond memories of meeting up at Cup Of Joe and working together at Roots. I never really told you how much some of the perspectives you shared really sunk in with meaning. I hope you find peace.*

Marlin Nissen - July 30, 2022 at 09:54 PM

LE

“ *Leslie lit a candle in memory of John Fink*



Leslie - July 30, 2022 at 02:39 PM

KT

“ *I met John as a new Chiropractor in town, when he was working at Roots, and then through the years at our home church (CF Mennonite). He also cleaned my office for ~5 years. He was always very thoughtful, diligent, and had a warm smile, especially when talking about his music. He always was great about sharing his CD's with me! The world was better knowing John was in it.*

Kyle Troyer - July 29, 2022 at 11:08 AM



“ *My deepest friend is gone, but according to my belief I pray daily. We met 'by chance' on College Hill, hit it off, and soon found ourselves boxing together, playing guitar, drinking (just a little!), but most importantly musing and exploring the facets and angles of 'just living.' The depth and breadth of this man's intelligence is NOT to be underestimated; decades later while pursuing post grad work in psychology if became common place while reading to discover: "I've heard this before....from John." Not through formal research, but simply gleaned from his own profound observations and internal reflections.*

But more people would remember him for his habit of blurting out in laughter from a private joke - more a cartoon (I asked him) playing like a hologram in his head.

I left the area to travel and explore, living in Europe for many years before settling in Texas; but in every instance and with a year or more between visits we would literally pick up the last conversation, with new 'discoveries' to compare, sift and exchange, as though honing minds through creative conversation.

Mr. John Fink enriched my life, and I am a better human being- and man - for knowing him.

Gregory Steiner - July 27, 2022 at 05:32 PM

AK

“ *Thank you for your music, smiles, your presence and for touching our lives. Rest in Peace.*

Adel Kessler - July 26, 2022 at 09:23 PM