



Jay Lee Evans

July 21, 1953 - January 9, 2014

Age 60, a lifelong resident of Albuquerque, passed away suddenly on January 9, 2014. He is survived by his mother Bonnie of Albuquerque; Sister Kay (husband Tommy) of Bellingham WA and an abundance of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Jay was preceded in death by his father James Lee Evans. Jay was known by many as "Roadrunner Red", his stage name during the years he spent in the circus trick riding and roping - an homage to his long family history of cattle ranching in New Mexico.

After retiring from the circus, Jay worked for the City of Albuquerque in several roles including Assistant to the Mayor, Director of Parks and Recreation, and most recently as Associate Planner with Open Space.

Jay made a special connection with each person he encountered, whether it was having him draw a sketch of you, watching him juggle, singing a song together, subjecting you to a corny joke or engaging in a thought provoking conversation. He will be sorely missed. Please join us in a celebration of Jay's life on Thursday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m. at The City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center at 6500 Coors NW. Should friends desire, memorial contributions can be made to the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice, 202 Harvard SE Albuquerque, NM 87106 or Open Space Alliance 6500 Coors Blvd Albuquerque, NM 87120.

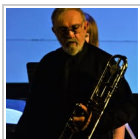
Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **16.** 1:00 PM (MT)

City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitation Center
6500 Coors NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Tribute Wall



“ We knew Jay at the joint Winter quarters of Carson and Barnes
am=n Kelly Miller. He was one that could do any job, and was good
to everyone.

William Reynolds - February 15, 2014 at 05:40 PM

TS

“ Like Jeff Otis, I knew Jay in the 70s, fell out of touch afterwards but
somehow usually knew what he was up to--joining circuses,
juggling, working for the city. Reading the tributes I get glimpses of
the same Jay as a man that I knew when we were both college kids:
kind, funny, humble, talented, principled, working for justice. It was
in this last pursuit that we met. My enduring image of him is as a
physical wonder, a rock climber of amazing fearless ability. He told
of a rock the size of a VW once coming down and hitting him. That
he was so involved with the Peace and Justice Center, and the
Humanist Society, does not surprise me. I am sorry I missed the full
flowering of his good life. The few times we ran into each other, it
was as if no time had passed. I am sorry for those of you who have
lost such a son, brother, and friend, and am sorry that the
community has lost a true citizen. My husband, Jack Cargill, sends
his condolences. Terry Storch

Terry Storch - January 21, 2014 at 09:53 AM

MM

“ Bonnie, I'm sorry to have missed the Tribute to Jay. I remember his as a child in the days of TMI, then I lost track of him, only discovering him working at the City of Albuquerque many years later. We had a reunion and reminisced about those days and about the days ahead for each of us. He was a joy to be around with always a kind and thoughtful word. I'm glad that I had the privilege to know him twice.

Mick McMahan - January 19, 2014 at 04:24 PM

TJ

Remembering Jay the Juggler from Magic Theatre days in Albuquerque back in the 70's. It was a sweet time we all had, making music and magic in the parks and streets of town, and Jay was our talented, intrepid, and wonderful friend! Rest in peace, Jay~ Travis Jarrell

Travis Jarrell - February 16, 2014 at 02:21 PM

RH

“ To friends and family, I am so sorry for your loss. The memorial service was such a nice way to honor Jay and inspire us all. I only knew Jay through the Humanist Society, but obviously I missed a great opportunity to know him better. Thank you Marti and family for sharing with us. I hope you can find a way to publish some of his cartoons and caligraphy.
Ron Herman

Ron Herman - January 17, 2014 at 10:34 AM

SF

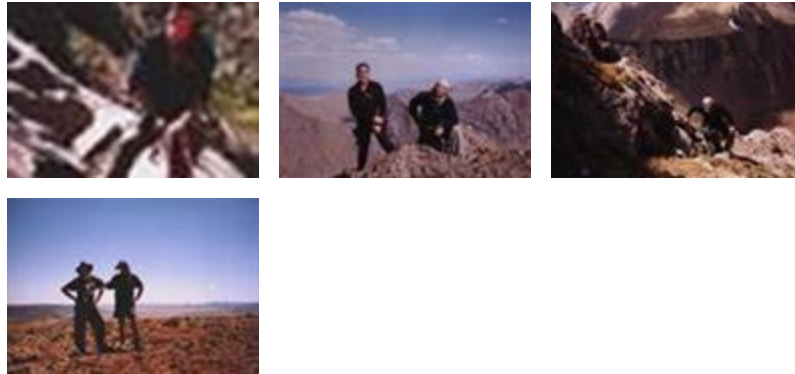
“ Jay was as a genuine a person you can find. He had an amazing aurora. He was such a great man. I have found me knows of him. I will miss him. I'm so sorry I missed the service today. RIP Jay.

Scott Forrester

Scott Forrester - January 17, 2014 at 12:32 AM

MD

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Mark Dalen - January 16, 2014 at 06:45 PM

MS

“ I can't attend the Memorial today but I wanted to say how sorry I was to learn of Jay's passing. I didn't know Jay well but I knew him for years through Escribiente and liked him. I heard him talk once about painting trucks - surely another of his unusual but interesting occupations! I also knew his "Quills" calendar pages over the years and always looked forward to seeing what his new one was. A talented man. He'll be missed.

Mary Sweet

Mary Sweet - January 16, 2014 at 09:47 AM

AC

“Bonnie, We are so sorry that we really didn't get to know the man that Jay grew up to be. I can remember so well one time you had invited us for dinner when you lived in Paradise Hills. Joe and Gene were so taken with Jay, and believe me, he kept them entertained'. Jay had a chameleon and those boys chased it everywhere. That was a great time for them and Jay was quite the entertainer. I know that you have some wonderful memories to look back on and to treasure. We love you and we share your sorrow. Wish we were there to give you a hug. God bless you all.
Alvin and Mary Ethel

Alvin & Mary Cavasos - January 15, 2014 at 08:42 PM

ES

“Jay, you will be missed. My thoughts and condolences go to the family. Jay was a happy person with a mission to make a difference in life. Working with Jay was always memorable. I loved his eloquent writing style. May you rest in peace and may your memories be a source of strength for your family.

Esther

Esther - January 15, 2014 at 05:24 PM

JK

“Jay Lee was an active member of the Peace Center, especially involved in efforts to control nuclear waste. He attended our monthly Dialogue, was a careful listener to others, gave insightful views on world issues, and his wonderful humor. After our December meeting Jay Lee played as we sang a few folk tunes. We planned to do that again. I feel great sadness that he will not be with us again.

Judith Kidd
Albuquerque Center for Peace & Justice

judith kidd - January 15, 2014 at 04:01 PM

SW

“ *My condolences to the family and friends of Jay Evans.*

He was a good man, so friendly and would drop by my office to visit our staff when he was in the building - not just to obtain neighborhood information for a project - but just to see how we were doing.

He apologized for not stopping by more last year in a last e-mail to me right before holidays and now I will treasure that e-mail as he was truly a man to appreciate.

Jay, may you rest in peace and you will be missed by all!

Stephani Winklepleck - January 15, 2014 at 12:04 PM

RA

“ *Thank you for your service to Albuquerque Jay. For you integrity, sense of justice, and your strength that has made this a better place for all of us to live.*

Ravi Wadhwani

Ravi - January 15, 2014 at 11:07 AM

CP

“ *Jay used his talents, skills and authority to advance justice. As Assistant to the Mayor, he recruited me to serve on the city's Bio-Park Board. As Director of Parks and Recreation he helped assure fair and equal treatment of Albuquerque Chapter of Veterans For Peace at the NM Veterans Memorial. I miss Jay Evans already.*

Charles R. Powell

Charles R. Powell - January 15, 2014 at 03:59 AM

JF

“ Jay was such a kind person and always had something nice to say. He and I worked on several projects together, he being from the city side and me bring from the private side. But he always greeted me with a "howdy neighbor!" since we lived three doors away from each other and considered ourselves more as neighbors than merely professional colleagues. He will be missed by many....

Jackie Fishman - January 15, 2014 at 12:35 AM

JW

“ Jay drove this silver Chevy Blazer at his Open Space job. One day he, Jolynn and I were driving to a meeting when the Star Wars theme song came on. I asked him to turn it up. We established that Jolynn was Princes Leia, I was Chewbacca and he asked squeamishly, "I get to be Han Solo?" Yes Jay, you get to be Han Solo. From that day on I called his little silver Blazer the Millennium Falcon.

Jay was a great artist and very aware of the great beauty that existed all around him.

*Sincerely,
A fellow Duende
J. Willis*

Joshua Willis - January 14, 2014 at 05:07 PM

TB

“ To: Mr. Jay Evans, It was a Great Honor and a Pleasure to have met you and had the opportunity to have worked with you, talked with you and known you!!! This world will have a "Hole" where you once stood missing out on all your "Experiences", "Knowledge" and "Personality" and I WILL shed Many TEARS for the Loss your Family, Friends and I have endured.....

Sincerely Tashia Baca

Tashia Baca - January 14, 2014 at 04:18 PM

MB

“ I knew Jay through the Humanist Society of New Mexico, where he could always be counted upon to keep us on the humanitarian and moral path. Though he often entertained us with music and jokes, he was fiercely serious about injustices of all kinds and concerns for our planet. I recognized him as a complex person of many passions and talents, but was unaware of his cowboy background and circus career. I worked with him a bit on planning entertainment for HSNM parties, but wish I had known him better.

Marilyn Brownstein

Marilyn Brownstein - January 14, 2014 at 10:27 AM

SS

“ We will miss Jay Lee at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice. I was getting to know him at this fall's monthly PAJOLA (Peace And Justice Organizations Linking Arms) meetings, where Jay Lee was tutoring me in how to be more effective at the upcoming Legislative Session. He offered to show me quicker ways to get consensus when facilitating, using Occupy hand signals, finger snapping, etc. At our last meeting on Dec. 19th he reluctantly agreed to take minutes after I begged and cajoled him. I can't imagine not seeing him in the Peace Hall, I'm still absorbing this news....We've lost someone very special, someone who was going to teach us more Woody Guthrie songs! Taken too soon... I will miss what more I could have learned from you, Jay Lee. Blessings to all his family and friends. Sue Schuurman

Susan Schuurman - January 14, 2014 at 01:08 AM

KL

“ I have known Jay for 45 years....where did the time go?

One of my best memories is the 30th HS reunion. A few of us went together. I remember Jay articulating the two step endlessly and showing his light -ooted nimbleness. Jay has always been about loyalty, trustworthiness, intergrity and kindness. He wore these qualites like a favored old coat....with comfort, ease and familiarity. He will always remain a part of our story....his friends who appreciated the special man he was... Kathie Lehner

Kathie Lehner - January 13, 2014 at 06:49 PM

BB

“ Jay, I was very sorry to learn of your passing, I counted you as one of my very dear friends and will always appreciate our working together. May your next leg of your journey be paved with feathers.

Brad Bingham - January 13, 2014 at 05:18 PM



“ *Simply Lily was purchased for the family of Jay Lee Evans.*



January 13, 2014 at 03:12 PM



“ *Jay will be missed in many ways. He was always my go-to man when something needed real follow-up. His diligence, creativity and of course his humor made working with him a real treat.*

*Diane Souder
Petroglyph NM*

Diane Souder - January 13, 2014 at 02:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



mark ively - January 13, 2014 at 11:25 AM

LF

“ I was just sharing a story about Jay not too long ago. A group of calligraphers were on a weekend retreat at Ghost Ranch. On the first night, I was up late with Jay (who was our guild president) and a few others in our classroom. I left the group and headed back to my room. Not knowing who my room mate was, I noticed hanging up on the clothse rack some neatly pressed white shirts in a larger size, but didn't give much thought to who they might belong to. Well, I was cozy in my bunk and started to fall asleep when Jay walked in. I thought he had walked into the wrong room (they were not locked) and I asked him what he was doing in my room. He said this was his room. I said it was my room. We both took out our card with the room assignment and he was right, and I was right. They thought Jay was a female. We laughed and I told him, "you are like a brother to me, so if you don't have any problems sharing a room, I don't." He agreed and we were roomies for the weekend.

A few days later, I received a flyer in the mail. It read, "Lori sleeps with President!" It was only sent to us by our mischievous newsletter editor. We had such a good laugh and I know he is still laughing about this.

I'll always remember him as Santa Claus, hiking at Ghost Ranch, calligraphy, celebrating Chinese New Year with him and his dad, and this Yankee girl country dancing with Jay. My dear friend, you'll always live on in my heart.

Lori

Lori Festa - January 12, 2014 at 11:17 PM

JG

“ Jay was as full of life as anyone I ever met. He contributed to the community in so many ways. For the Humanist Society he had serious ideas for serious problems, entertained with his little harmonica & cute limericks, had a great smile & many jokes, was always available when needed for a task, & just infused the group with a contagious effervescence.
Jay, we will sorely miss you, & you will not be forgotten.

Jerry Gilbert - January 12, 2014 at 02:57 PM

SS

We will miss Jay Lee at the Albuquerque Center for Peace and Justice. I was getting to know him at this fall's monthly PAJOLA (Peace And Justice Organizations Linking Arms) meetings, where Jay Lee was tutoring me in how to be more effective at the upcoming Legislative Session. He offered to show me quicker ways to get consensus when facilitating, using Occupy hand signals, finger snapping, etc. At our last meeting on Dec. 19th he reluctantly agreed to take minutes after I begged and cajoled him. I can't imagine not seeing him in the Peace Hall, I'm still absorbing this news....We've lost someone very special, someone who was going to teach us more Woody Guthrie songs! Taken too soon... I will miss what more I could have learned from you, Jay Lee. Blessings to all his family and friends. Sue

Susan Schuurman - January 14, 2014 at 12:56 AM

EO

“ There was always a treat, a surprise awaiting, to be with this amazing and versatile man, such a kind heart. Jay found many ways to connect with people around him, leaving them happier or laughing or just feeling good about the world. I have added a photo of Jay from the Escribiente calligraphy retreat at Ghost Ranch in 2002 showing just one of his many talents. He will be missed.
Esther Feske

eofeske - January 12, 2014 at 02:19 PM

LF

“ *Its sad to see that Jay has left this existence and into the next. I met Jay in 2010 at the Solo Club, he would ask me to dance and when were dancing he would comment " Lola thank you dancing with me". He also drew me a Birthday card, which I still have and I look at it and remember when he drew and gave it to me. . May your family find comfort in knowing that when they too leave this existence they will be reunited with you. With a concrete heart and loving memories I say: " Until we meet again, my friend."*

Lola Fields

Lola Fields - January 12, 2014 at 02:13 PM

EO

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



eofeske - January 12, 2014 at 02:09 PM

JO

“ I met Jay in the early 70's. He was an amazing person. Once, for my birthday he surprised me when he entertained everyone with some amazing juggling interspersed with wonderful humor. Jay had many talents and yet always carried a humble demeanor. I don't think I ever heard him say a bad word about anybody. Jay was one of my favorite people and I regret that life carried me off in a direction where I only occasionally ran into him. But, whenever I did speak with him I always came away happier. The man had a beautiful wit. Jay had an intensity and enthusiasm that is hard to describe. I feel sadness that I am certain is shared by many, many people that had the joy of knowing Jay. Goodbye good friend.
Jeff Otis

Jeff Otis - January 12, 2014 at 01:34 PM

RC

“ So sad to hear of the passing of my friend, Jay Evans. To this day I still have a special drawing that Jay had done for me. He was the best Senate Sgt. at Arms that a person could ever have. Jay was so talented and he could make music with his bull whips. Will miss Jay in this life tremendously. May God bless his family as they know they will see him again.

Sincerely,
Robert Clayton

Robert Clayton - January 12, 2014 at 01:26 PM

BI

“ Jay was a very talented individual. He did engage you into interesting conversation and then he could make you laugh. Play his harmonica will be one of many things I shall miss about Jay. He always surprised me on his knowledge of so many different things. His last surprise to me is when I showed him a piece of my artwork and Jay could recite the complete poem of "Invictus" by William Henley. Jay your presence will be deeply missed.

Bill - January 12, 2014 at 01:08 PM

NI

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Nicole Ivey - January 12, 2014 at 10:16 AM

JW

Jay was a smart, wise man who thought deeply and cared widely. But the first word I think of when I think of Jay is "fun." Whether riding his unicycle or singing something outrageous, he was a fun person to be around. I, and many others, will miss him.

Jerry N. Wesner - January 12, 2014 at 01:56 PM

KS

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences

Kristian Schmidt - January 11, 2014 at 12:34 PM