



Sheldon Kalberg

June 16, 1943 - November 5, 2014

KALBERG, SHELDON

The world lost Sheldon Kalberg on November 5th, 2014. He was born June 16th, 1943, to Martin and Karen Kalberg in Glendive, Montana. Sheldon leaves behind his adoring daughters, Kirstin and Lisa Kalberg of Albuquerque, son-in-law Andy Browning and grandson, Dylan. He is also survived by his dear sister, JoAnn Roe, brother-in-law, Carl Roe, and their children, Peggy Maez, Mike, Tom, and Tim Roe, as well as many great nieces and nephews. He was blessed with an extraordinary blended family including Wendy Kalberg, Scott Hand, Mike McConnell-Hand, Kristen Albers and their families, as well as the Oakes extended family who also remained close. Central to his life were his many treasured friends, students, and peers; kindred spirits who shared his love of music. His lifelong musical career began in Los Alamos, New Mexico where he was the beloved high school choral director for almost two decades. After moving to Albuquerque In 1984, Sheldon embarked on twenty six years of musical fellowship as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church, retiring in 2011. One of the greatest joys of his professional musical career was directing the Sangre de Cristo Chorale during its first twenty-five years. In addition to being a fine choral director, he was an exceptional performer who carried the lead in a number of musical theatre productions including; Flower Drum Song, The King and I, Showboat, Anything Goes, The Fantasticks, Stop the World I Want to Get Off, and You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. His diverse talents ranged from singing and

playing keyboard in various ensembles to performing with Musica Antigua de Albuquerque. Words cannot express how much we miss you; lover of irreverent humor, chocolate connoisseur, quick-witted quipster, musical genius, maestro, dynamic performer, devoted friend, treasured soul mate, gentle loving 'Bestefar,' and cherished father. A musical celebration of Sheldon's life will be held on Saturday, November 15th at 1 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes can be made to V&L Care, 1325 Gabaldon Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM, 87104, or the First Presbyterian Church Music Program at 215 Locust St. NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87102. Heartfelt gratitude to V&L Care - Eva, Adriana, Terricia, Kristina, Betty, and Maria, and Hospice de La Luz for their dedicated, compassionate care of Sheldon during his final days.

Tribute Wall

CC

“ To the family of Sheldon Kalberg,
I am so sorry to read that Sheldon passed away. I was in one of
Sheldon's choirs at LBJ High School in Austin in 1975-76, and
though he was at my high school only one year, he made a
significant and permanent impact on my interest in music and in
singing. I will always think of him with great fondness.

With sincerest condolences,
Chuck Cross

Chuck Cross - July 15, 2015 at 08:36 AM

CC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Chuck Cross - July 15, 2015 at 08:30 AM

PR

“ I remember the day Sheldon got the job in Los Alamos. Joy. My
prayers go forth for peace and life memories for your families.
Prudence Davis Aylsworth Career counselor
Albuquerque 1984-2000

prudence - December 04, 2014 at 10:23 PM

WD

“ Dear Wendy, Kirsten & Lisa... We are saddened to learn of Sheldon's death. Knowing full-well that he was not in good health does not negate the feeling of loss. We first knew Sheldon (and you, Wendy) at ASU in the doctoral program in the early 70's. What a great time we had with you all and the Smiths, Chad Edwards, Aamots and many others who were there to study with Dr. McEwen. Sheldon was one of the most pleasant and sincere men I have ever known. His musical abilities coupled with his wonderful sense of humor made him an irresistible personality. We have shared many grand musical moments together and enjoyed many a social occasion. Although we have not been in contact with Sheldon for several years, he will live on in our memories. Warren & Linda Dennis, Tempe, AZ

Warren Dennis - November 20, 2014 at 03:21 PM

WK

Dear Warren and Linda, Thank you for your thoughtful and kind message. I fondly recall those great days in Arizona. Sheldon is now out of his suffering and we miss him greatly. I hope you and your family are well.

wkalberg - November 21, 2014 at 07:14 AM

LA

“ Dear family of Sheldon's . . . first encountered Sheldon in the early 1960's and worked with him on productions in LA Light Opera and Don Juan Playhouse. So much fun he was, great to work with and many happy memories of those days. And now am sure he's serenading the angels, most likely leading them in a grand chorus or two, or perhaps back here as a lovely song bird. So next time you hear an especially gorgeous song from a feathered one, let's just say it's Sheldon!
Blessings, Laurie Archer

Laurie Archer - November 15, 2014 at 04:46 PM

WK

Thank you, Laurie. We will embrace that image. We appreciate your thoughts and recollections. Warmest regards, Wendy

wkalberg - November 21, 2014 at 07:17 AM

JK

“*After nearly 50 years of friendship, I look back on a journey that included the choirs at UNM, enjoying your musicianship and your patronage while directing the choirs at Los Alamos High School, the Sangre De Cristo chorale, and First Presbyterian church. Thank you , Sheldon, for a job well done.*

Joe Keith (The Music Mart, Inc.)

Joe Keith - November 15, 2014 at 10:20 AM

DL

“Moving to Los Alamos, New Mexico from Salem, Ohio created a deep sadness and fear in me back in August of 1968. Aching and unsure of myself, I signed up for Girl's Glee Club because that's what I did: I sang.



Sheldon Kalberg became my sunshine. He gave me wings so I could fly. He was an oasis in that teen-aged desert. Singing for him healed my heart. He directed with a profound understanding of the music, the words, and the individuals in his choirs. I learned not only how to sing better, but also how to perform better and, most importantly, how to BE the music.

Over the years I have enjoyed singing in college and various groups because that's what I do: I sing. And Sheldon Kalberg is in my mind and in my heart with every note.

Wendy, Kirsten and Lisa; thank you for sharing your soul-mate, your Dad, with so many of us. I am sorry he was taken so soon. He was bigger than life and he saved mine. He made the whole world sing.

Dana Lippiatt - November 15, 2014 at 09:36 AM



“Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Sheldon Kalberg.



November 13, 2014 at 03:35 PM

MW

“ I knew Sheldon as a fellow teacher at Los Alamos High, as the Director of the Sangre de Cristo Choir, and as a friend. I don't think I ever saw him without a smile or a laugh. An amazing man who positively impacted so many lives. He drove his green MG which recalled my MGs from another life time. I was sorry to lose touch with his move to Alb., and I know who went through a real battle with his health problems. He will be missed by thousands, My sympathy to all of the family.

Mary Louise Williams

Mary Louise Williams - November 12, 2014 at 04:50 PM

CM

“ Dear Kirsten, Lisa and Wendy,
I want you to know that I am keeping you in my thoughts as you go through this difficult time.

I look back at all the memories of the time spent in Los Alamos and being neighbors with the Oakes family. I also think fondly of being in mixed chorus at Los Alamos High School under Sheldon's wonderful direction. I was also fortunate enough to sing in the Chancel Choir at First Presbyterian Church for a short time. He truly was a talented man and his music will be missed. I believe I may have even seen one of the performances of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

May you find peace in your lives,
Catherine Wagner Miners



Catherine Miners - November 11, 2014 at 04:50 PM



“ Dear Extended Kalberg Family , I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Sheldon (Mr. Kalberg) was the most positive and energetic person that I have ever met. He had a huge impact on me as a high school kid. He was certainly my favorite and most memorable teacher. I have tried to carry on his legacy of music and positivity in my work with teenagers around me. (I am directing a ~40 voice youth choir this Sunday in church.) May the Lord be with you and sustain you during this time of loss. I am sure the heavenly choirs are rejoicing to have his beautiful tenor voice in their ranks. I know that he will be resurrected and that we will see him again in perfect health (Alma 11:44).

Sincerely, Allen Pack allenpack1@gmail.com

Allen Pack - November 11, 2014 at 02:50 PM

MG

“ Dear Kirsten, Lisa and Wendy,

Sheldon was a bright light in every life that he touched, a great talent with few peers, filled with boundless love. At LAHS, he brought out the best in his students helping us achieve our musical and acting potential, giving us lasting memories. Wendy, I remember those early days at UNM fondly and being your back yard neighbor all those years ago.

Sheldon never failed to welcome me as a temporary member of the choir at First Pres., allowing me to occasionally relive those magical moments we had in Los Alamos. His energy extended in all directions and he was a joy to us all. He will be greatly missed.

Rest in peace, dear Sheldon.

Julia Wagner Garratt

mgarratt@centurylink.net - November 11, 2014 at 12:28 PM

RH

“ We greatly appreciated Sheldon's leadership when we were both in choir. He generously allowed Lara and Phillip, young children at the time, to play in the Sanctuary so Nancy could also sing in the choir. After being gone for six years, when we returned from living in Washington, DC, Sheldon graciously welcomed Ron back to the choir and Nancy was disappointed that her health would not permit her to return to the choir. We were saddened that Sheldon's health shortened his career. He was a very special person and friend. When we think of his smile we are reminded of all the good times shared.

Ron & Nancy Halbgewacjs

Ron Halbgewachs - November 11, 2014 at 11:53 AM

CU

“ I'm from Glendive, My condolences to entire extended Kalberg Family. I now live in Santa Fe NM.

curtis - November 11, 2014 at 11:25 AM

DW

“ I was teaching in Los Alamos when Sheldon came. He was "A Good Man Charlie Brown." Our back yard intersected with the Oakes, so from 1965 on, Wendy was more than a student. Moving to Albuquerque, we continued to enjoy knowing Sheldon. Our deepest respect for his life. Duane Wagner, Katy, TX

Duane Wagner - November 11, 2014 at 08:50 AM

JH

“*Sheldon Kalberg was one of the angels of my life. I often tell the story of the day, 20, or so, years ago when he stopped me in the hallway at church and asked, "Would you be interested in directing the children's choir?" I had just returned back after being away from the church for many years and I didn't know Sheldon. I didn't think he knew me, either. I wasn't teaching music then and I wondered why in the world he would ask ME to conduct the children's choir. But, that simple question and his continued trust in and mentorship of me in the 10 years I did that work, put me on the career path I've been on ever since.*

Also, I have always admired Sheldon's blended family and the way he maintained the integrity and strength and, what looked like to me from the outside, the awesome love of that throughout the years. A few years ago, before Sheldon's illness took over, when I knew that my own family was moving in a similar direction, I confided in him in what was an important conversation to me. He was loving, honest and supportive and, as it always was in conversations with Sheldon, we laughed a lot.

I didn't visit Sheldon in his recent years, but I held him in my prayers and in lifted him up constantly. I was happy that at the end of the beautiful First Pres. retirement service debuting Brad Elligboe's piece in honor of Sheldon, and what was to be the last time I saw him, I said, "I love you, Sheldon." "I love you, too, Julia," he said to me - with a laugh and a hug. Sheldon Kalberg mattered to my life. I give thanks for that his life will live on through me and in the lives of so many others who loved him.

Julia Church Hoffman - November 11, 2014 at 08:14 AM

AH

“ Even though we have been away from New Mexico for 13 years, each time we returned to visit, Sheldon welcomed us at First Pres. with open arms and his wonderful laugh...just like it was yesterday that we saw him. Such a God-filled man. So very thankful to have had the moments we did with him. Thank you for sharing him with so many of us.

Peace, prayers and joy,
Anne Higgins

Anne Higgins - November 10, 2014 at 08:59 PM

SE

“ Dear Kirstin, Lisa and Wendy,

I was so blessed to have 25 years in Sheldon's choir at First Presbyterian Church in Albuquerque. He brought such joy to all of us as he taught us beautiful music. Our choir practices were filled with laughter! He was not only our choir director, but a friend to each of us, and so supportive of me as Ross' health failed. I have never quit missing him!

With Love,
Susan Elder

Susan Elder - November 10, 2014 at 08:58 PM

KS

“ Dear Kirstin, Lisa and Wendy,
Sheldon was so easy to love. And he had an amazing gift to make others feel loved.
I will miss his smile, laugh, gentle heart, quick wit, incredible gift of music and the joy on his face when he talked about you. You were the light of his life. It was a high honor to serve in ministry with him and call him friend. God's deep peace be with you. I love you.
Kelley

Kelley Wehmeyer Shin - November 10, 2014 at 06:39 PM

RB

“ Dear Kirsten, Liza and Wendy,
Words cannot say how important Sheldon was in my life. I am so glad he had all of you near him in these recent years and please know you are very much in my thoughts and prayers. May the angels sing him to sleep.
Rhondda

Rhondda Bradbury - November 10, 2014 at 05:50 PM

 Sam
Mayer

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sam Mayer - November 10, 2014 at 04:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *First Presbyterian Church*



Sam Mayer - November 10, 2014 at 04:05 PM

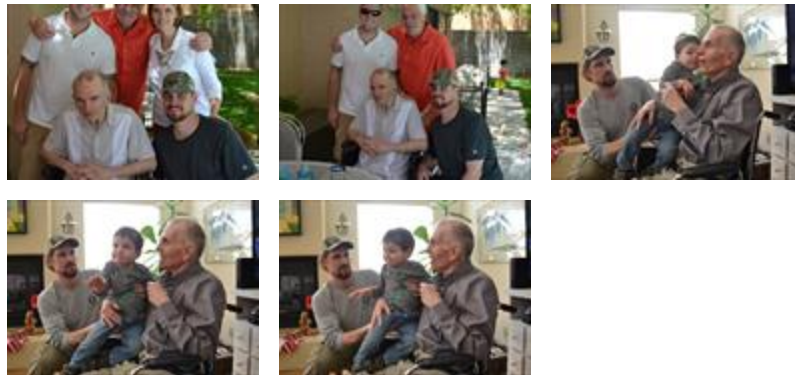
TH

“ Dear Kirsten and Lisa, I'm so very sorry for your sad loss. Your dad was one of my all time favorite people! So grateful to have had the opportunity to know his kind and gentle spirit. Hugs to you and those you love. Teresa Hathaway

Teresa Hathaway - November 10, 2014 at 12:46 PM

KI

“ 45 files added to the album *Memories of Dad*



Kirtstin - November 09, 2014 at 10:40 AM

TM

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

Trinity Montoya - November 08, 2014 at 06:01 PM