



## Stephen L. Cronk

July 19, 1948 - September 22, 2005

Anderson - Stephen L. Cronk, 57, Anderson, died September 22, 2005 at Community Hospital, Anderson after a brief illness. He was born July 19, 1948 in Muncie, Indiana, and was raised in Anderson. He lived in Indianapolis and spent most of his adult life in New York City. He was an English Teacher at Anderson High School and Plainfield High School. He was a magazine editor in New York City. Stephen was also a poet. He was a graduate of Madison Heights High School. He earned his bachelor's degree at Purdue University in 1970 and his master's degree at New York University in 1976. He is survived by his daughter, Allyn Spacek; son-in-law, Ondrej "Andy" Spacek; Allyn's mother, Pam Trantham Tate; many relatives and friends including lifelong friends, Erich Ewald, Jack Craig and Kevin Crim. He was preceded in death by his parents: Talford and Ruth Reeves Cronk. Stephen's wishes were to be cremated. A memorial service will be held at 6:30 PM, Monday, September 26, 2005 at 6:30 PM with Rev. Matthew Manning officiating. Friends may gather after the memorial service for a time of reflection. [www.LooseFuneralHomes.com](http://www.LooseFuneralHomes.com)

# Tribute Wall

RB

“ Steve was my neighbor and a friend of my brother, Richard Harruff. Steve lived on Garden Court and we lived on Washington Court in Edgewood. (Both dead-end streets were side by side). When young he played army with my brother, Jackie Daley and Eric Ewald. I'm sorry he is gone. A wonderful young boy as I knew him. Robin Harruff Brown

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**Robin Harruff Brown** - March 18, 2020 at 01:41 AM

JB

“ My wife Elaine and I were saddened to read of Steve's death in the March issue of the Purdue Alumni magazine. Steve and I were freshman roommates. I first met him when he was playing his Gibson 12 string guitar in our room. We both started out majoring in chemistry, did lousy and changed majors. We initially pledged the same fraternity together. He was best man at my wedding and I at his, although others were more deserving. I have a lot of fond memories of our Purdue years and of Steve's gentleness and humor. Unfortunately we lost track of each other in the early 70s. Now that I am retired I thought of looking him up and wished I would have. But I see from all these nice memorials he had great friends and did just fine. Rest in peace.

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**Jim Bowers** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ My first memories of New York City are with Steve at his apartment in Washington Heights, when I was 12, then driving down Broadway with him & Allyn & my family for the beginning of an adventurous and mind-opening vacation. He always welcomed us back and I don't think I would've come to school and lived here if he didn't provide that opportunity. I wanted to live like him, a NYC bachelor with a job in the arts, living simply in a complicated city. I will never forget the late-night conversations, the comfortable black leather couch I used to crash on, the jazz playing on the stereo. My deepest sympathies go out to you Allyn and all of Steve's friends & family, as he was much loved and will be forever remembered. Wishing you the best in these difficult times, Chris

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**Chris DeAngelis** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I met Steve and Allyn 13 years ago, when I was 14 years old; and under strange and amazing circumstances, we ended up knowing each other for many, many years. Not only did Steve always, unfailingly open the doors of his Manhattan apartment to us, he just as comfortably opened the doors of his heart and beautiful mind to us, as well. When I knew that a visit to NYC meant being able to stay with him, I looked forward to that more than I did the city itself. I remember the late nights that turned into early mornings and the conversation that flowed as freely as the gin. That's how it was with Steve; always memorable, always fun, always stimulating, even for a teenage kid. I just hope that Steve knew how much he was loved, and how much he affected all of those close to him. I know that I am one of many that will never, ever forget him. Allyn, I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that your father was an inspiration to me in many ways. All the best - Kristen

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**Kristen Schmedt** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LD

“ Steve was such a good friend. He always welcomed me and my family when we were in New York City. I will miss him so much.

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**Linda DeAngelis** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

BD

“ We both worked with Steve at the Pawnshop Pub many years ago. Always a nice guy and friendly. He was always our favorite bartender, welcome you like the show "Cheers". Our Condolences- Barb and Robert Diemer

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**Barbara and Robert Diemer** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ It has been a while since I last saw Steve—a long while—but I still call him my friend and remember him as not only someone creative, funny, and enormously intelligent, but also someone who was essentially decent and compassionate and good. He was a good friend to me and to a number of other writers and artists in Indianapolis in the late 70s and early 80s. I always thought of him as a one of the better people I knew. Clearly he was a man wrestling with his demons—as we all did then, and still do. Much of the time such wrestling was a good thing, and it certainly drove his creativity. My sense then was that more times than not he was winning against the odds. He certainly won my friendship and admiration. When he left I envied him. Steve always considered Indiana a sort of exile from the life he wanted in New York, and when he finally made the move back there, I had to be happy for him. The truth is that I still remember him in that happy light. The last time I saw him he seemed to be living the life he wanted—living in the city he loved and working as a writer and editor. It took me a lot longer to find that sort of situation, or to even have a small measure of Steve’s focus. Though we fell out of touch, I continued to think of him as someone whose gifts I admired and wanted to emulate. I still do. The shock of his death makes my sadness sharper and more painful. I have been told that his last years were difficult and that the illness was very hard on him. I also wish that I had known he was back in Anderson and had been able to help him in some way. In any case, I remember Steve as a gifted friend and a bright light. The world without him seems a little darker.

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**Kevin Corn** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Steve and I worked together in Indy in the 80s. The free spirit that lives in him was fresh air to me. My memories will always bring a smile and the feeling of a soft heart. Truly, Morgen Bosler

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**Morgen Bosler** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ We are saddened to learn of Steve's death. We will remember him fondly.

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**Kathleen Baldwin & Brian Halloran** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ To Allyn, I remember your dad as such a fun-loving ok, sometimes irresponsible! person, always ready to debate a point, especially concerning writing, poetry or politics. I looked up to him for the strength of his passions and his free-spirit, and he was a damn good writer. You must know that he always thought that you were the best thing to ever happen to him. At your wedding, he beamed that wonderful big smile of his constantly. And many of the years with your mom were incredibly happy ones--I remember so many evenings we all spent together laughing and talking into the wee hours. There might have been things we would have changed about him--that's true of all of us--but I think he had a good ride until very near the end. I hope we can all say the same.

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**Toni Apgar** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ I first remember meeting Steve over 20 years ago at The Writers Center Poetry Readings. I was introduced to him by the man who later became my husband Kevin Corn and Steve was an integral member of the Writers Center. He was also a close friend, taking part in our wedding and joining us at the various Writers Center parties, crazy and wild as they could be. He was part of a tight knit group, one that helped forge a place for writers who dared to take risk and express their unique viewpoints, whether by writing poetry, fiction or experimental performances. He had a certain charisma, a special personality and striking white hair that, oddly enough, made him look more youthful and handsome. When I think of Steve, I remember his humor, wit and passion, a passion that could turn to anger and impatience with certain aspects of literature and the literary world. His opinions were strong, his commitment to his beliefs equally strong. I can remember many nights when he'd argue and debate about various aspects of writing, long into the night. I'm saddened by the fact that there won't be more nights like that, as I'd always imagined him popping up sometime, ready to jump back in where he'd left off. Even though we lost touch with Steve after he left Indianapolis, we thought of him often and were shocked and saddened to hear of his death. He called us once and my husband visited him one other time in New York. He seemed happy and ready to go on to a new phase in his life. The news of his death came as a shock to us, as I'm sure it did to many of his friends and family. Keven and I want to express all our sympathies to those who loved and cared for him. He will always hold a special place in our hearts.

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**Jane Corn** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Steve was my closest friend for many years, and I am in shock today, as I talked with him two weeks ago today. It's a tremendous loss to all of us -- Best wishes Allyn & Andy and Pam.

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**Stephen McKee** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Dear Pam, I was so sorry to hear about Steve's passing. I will try to be there on Monday. I had a brief relationship with his father at Bethany Point and still I didn't get to see Steve due to a conflict in hours. I did however send him a note a couple of times. Again, I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. Claudia

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**claudia carter keele** - June 26, 2014 at 12:00 AM