



Craig Lewis Axelrod

February 24, 1954 - September 5, 2019

Our beloved Craig Axelrod, 65, lost his valiant battle with cancer on September 5, 2019. Raised on the North Shore of Chicago, Craig found and created a home in the Hill Country near Austin Texas. Professionally, he contributed to the field of deaf blind education as a renowned teacher for the Texas School for the Deaf, and a teacher extraordinaire and outreach consultant for the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. His gift of teaching was matched only by his dedication to his students' families and everyone with whom he worked. After retiring from teaching, Craig pursued his love of books and reading, working for 12 years at the Dripping Springs Community Library. An avid musician, Craig played guitar, piano, and tin whistle. His eclectic taste ranged from the Academy of Ancient Music conducted by Sir Christopher Hogwood to Townes Van Zandt and Irish folk music. The breadth and depth of his music knowledge influenced countless friends and family throughout the world. To be in Craig's presence was a gift. His gentle nature, beautiful smile, and infectious laugh were magical. He was an amazing spirit and a constant source of support and strength whose memory will forever be a blessing.

Craig is survived by his loving parents (Leslie & Leah), siblings (David & Penny, Hal & Hollis, Garrick, Brad & Robin, Nell), cherished nieces (Melanie, Peri & Scott Babendir) and nephews (Robert, Ari), and his soul mate, best friend, and loving partner (Carolina Gonzalez). His incalculable loss is felt

among his extended family members, community, former students and their families, and countless friends, all of whom were touched by his soul and long for his presence.

Should you wish to honor his memory, the family suggests these institutions that were most dear to Craig:

Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (Can abbreviate as TSBVI)
1100 West 45th St.
Austin, TX 78756

Dripping Springs Community Library
501 Sportsplex Dr.
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
Attn: Marcia Atilano, Director
<https://tinyurl.com/y6ddp8co>

Our family is enormously grateful for the loving care provided by Christopher House Hospice:
Hospice Austin
4107 Spicewood Springs Road, Suite 100
Austin, TX 78759
<https://www.hospiceaustin.org/donation-form/>

Sierra Club of Texas
<http://tinyurl.com/y6d298he>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **24**. 11:00 AM (CT)

The Barn at Bella Nido Bed and Breakfast
23351 West Farm to Market Road 150
Driftwood, TX 78619

Tribute Wall

FB

“ Craig was a decent and grounding presence in the crazy 1974 years at UT Austin, when I knew him as my boyfriend's roommate in the Versailles Apartments. He played his guitar and sang to us one night, I was touched by his quiet talent. I always liked him and am sorry he's gone.

Felicia Bond - March 21, 2025 at 11:03 PM



“ Craig Lewis Axelrod

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM

NE

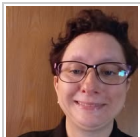
Craig made a difference in my life. A good, loving, interesting, giving, open person.
Thank you for letting me be a part of your life.

Nela - September 19, 2023 at 05:27 PM

DM

“ I'm so sorry not to have heard of Craig's death until now, in February 2021. We were classmates at UT and coworkers at the former Deaf-Blind Annex to TSBVI. As well as seeing him professionally at various events, we also bumped into one another around Oak Hill at various times. I'll always remember those winter evenings on General Coverage (a supervised recreation time for children) as we found new ways to help socially withdrawn deafblind children play and interact. Craig was an expert player, at once sensitive to children's signals and creative at engaging them and prolonging the interaction in gentle and appropriate ways. I remember when he and Tom bought the land ("Where the heck is Dripping Springs?") and seeing his new spotlessly clean home right after he built it. He was always an admirable, professional, and interesting person. My sympathies to Carolina and his friends and family.

DeJean Miller Melton - February 03, 2021 at 05:20 PM



“ I worked with Craig for many years at the Dripping Springs Community Library. He was more like a family to me than a co-worker. We bonded over music, preferably The Beatles. I will miss him so much, I actually had a dream with him in it a night ago, don't remember much, but I remember him. Look over me dear friend, till we meet again.

Amanda Rorie Meyer - June 10, 2020 at 11:29 PM



“ I met Craig when we were freshman at UT-Austin in 1972 in the Drama Dept. We remained friends long after graduation and I remember when he was still living in Austin and had just bought his land in Dripping Springs. Back then -- late 70s perhaps -- there was very little in that corner of Texas. Now, it's completely changed. Some years ago, a mutual friend passed away and his memorial was in Houston. I asked him to ride with me. My sister was ill and lived very near to the memorial venue. I asked Craig if he would mind stopping by and visiting my sister briefly on the way to the memorial. He was so totally gracious to her -- a total, charming gentleman. And I made sure that he and I drove together (we had other friends who wanted to ride in our car) but I really wanted to spend as much time with him as I could. Another old buddy for UT Drama School came through and we all met up for dinner about three years ago. It was the last time I saw him but we had a great time. And here is a picture from that reunion.

Craig was such a kind and gentle soul. I am happy to have had time to be his friend.

Mike McKinley



Mike McKinley - November 06, 2019 at 10:04 AM

GB

“ I was profoundly saddened to learn of Craig's passing. I'll always have fun memories of the time we spent working and playing at the Annex. I always thought of him as a GENTLE giant. Love you!

Gene Brooks - October 18, 2019 at 03:51 PM

CG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolina Gonzalez - October 14, 2019 at 10:16 PM

SS

“ So very saddened to hear of losing Craig. We bonded right from the start at UT Drama even though both being bearded, dark and 6'4" tall we competed for roles. He got most of them...I vividly remember running into Craig in, of all places, Viterbo College in Wisconsin in the audience at a Theatre Festival in 1975 with, I think, his brother. Ever since then I'd be delighted by the regular update Postcards and letters from wherever his feet and curiosity would take him. I buzzed his wonderful Hill Country house several times over the years in various Navy jets and other aircraft because I knew the place from the first time he proudly walked out the lines of where he was going to build his dream with me. I was so impressed by Craig because although all of us Austin hippie yahoos dreamed of buying some Hill Country land and building a house by hand...he went out and did it! A life well lived, We'll all be a little less to not be able to share through his eyes. Fair seas and following winds, Axe.

*Skip Slyfield
Park City, UT*

Skip Slyfield - October 05, 2019 at 11:33 AM

NA

Such nice memories. Thank you.

Nell Axelrod - October 11, 2019 at 09:41 AM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dick Blue - September 28, 2019 at 02:06 PM

DB

I miss my hiking and beer sampling buddy. Being around Craig was always something to look forward to. His interests were so broad and his attitude so positive even during the years he battled cancer. And, I wish I knew how to turn the picture I submitted 90 more degrees-sorry Craig!

Dick Blue - September 28, 2019 at 02:19 PM

CG

Craig always looked forward to the camping/hiking trips with you. Thank you Dick for always having his back when he needed help, from some projects around the house, to transportation to his appointments.

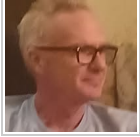
Carolina Gonzalez - October 14, 2019 at 10:12 PM

Paul
Christie

“ Craig and I worked together at Dripping Springs Community Library when I was a volunteer. We bonded over our love of books and cinema. I loved his spirit, his passion for life and his genuine warmth. He was a kind friend & mentor. My deepest condolences to the family. Rest in peace, Craig



Paul Christie - September 18, 2019 at 06:51 PM



“ I told Craig frequently he is the worlds best next door neighbor. He was, we five as neighbors maybe not so much but Craig loved us despite the racket.

Craig was a dear friend, a trusted confidant, a role model, a gracious guest and a generous soul. He demonstrated to us all, importantly, our three kids, respect and appreciation for nature and quiet, the beauty of a simple and refined life, treading lightly and living life on ones own terms. What an incredible character, and how fortunate are we to have had Craig as such a remarkable fixture in our lives.

Andrew Passino

Andrew Passino - September 16, 2019 at 02:45 PM

RB

“ 1 file added to the album *UT Austin*



Raymond Benson - September 13, 2019 at 08:23 PM

AP

“ *My family and I were so fortunate to have had Craig as a next door neighbor and dear friend for the past 25 years. We could often hear beautiful Irish music wafting through the trees which would always make us smile. He was a family friend but also a dear personal friend to each of us individually. He joined us for birthdays, holidays, weddings or just to share a homemade jar of jelly from the grapes that grew in our yards. We have had many dogs over the years and all had learned that Craig kept a refreshing bowl of water on his porch (even though he didn't have pets of his own). He will be missed and continued to be loved.*

Ann Passino

Ann Passino - September 13, 2019 at 12:18 PM



“ *I am very sad to find out that Craig passed away. I am his neighbor. We used to run into each other when I was running and he was walking in our neighborhood and we greeted each other. Once he showed me a wild persimmon tree by the side of the road and showed me that I could eat them. He always greeted me from his office when I go to the library. He was a very friendly and good person. I will miss him. Miki*

Mikiko Kudo - September 12, 2019 at 10:33 AM

NA

“ 11 files added to the tribute wall



Nell Axelrod - September 12, 2019 at 04:40 AM

NA

“ Thank you for sharing the memories of my brother here and on Facebook. He lived a life of rich relationships and meaningful experiences.

Being my older brother, I mostly ‘grew up’ without him as he moved to Texas when I was so young. He made sure we had a connection, however, whether through my trips to visit him, the many times we met in Ireland, or the moments set aside to catch up while at family events.

I include photos here that I posted on Facebook.

Nell Axelrod - September 12, 2019 at 04:32 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album *Dripping Springs Community Library*



Marcia Atilano - September 11, 2019 at 11:29 AM

MA

“ 1 file added to the album *Dripping Springs Community Library*



Marcia Atilano - September 11, 2019 at 11:28 AM

CN

“ *When Craig and I left high school, he immediately went to Austin and I, a couple of years later, ended up in LA. Even though our lives diverged we always stayed in touch. A lifetime of corny in-jokes that never stopped being funny, favorite music, Troop 324...memories. Craig gave so much of himself to everyone who crossed his path. I miss him greatly, and always will.*

Cory Miles Neff - September 09, 2019 at 10:58 PM

DE

“ Craig was the teacher's assistant in my classroom at the Deaf Blind Annex for a year (1975-76) and I so enjoyed working with him side by side. His humor, positivity, and loving attitude towards the kids was inspiring. Though we didn't keep in touch over the years, Tom would keep me informed of his goings on and his life after leaving the Annex. You will be missed, Craig!

Deb - September 09, 2019 at 10:33 PM

AV

“ You were always there for me Craig, my christening, high school and college graduation, my wedding to name a few. You were the best godfather a godson could ask for. I love you and will miss you so!!!



Austin Valentine - September 09, 2019 at 09:37 PM



“ Craig- you are such a dear. You left this world too soon. Rest in peace my friend.

Vivian Caldwell - September 09, 2019 at 09:34 PM

SG

“ I will forever remember growing up with your family. Craig was such an outgoing person. I have many memories but the one that I'll never forget is as sick as he was he came to my dads funeral. That was such a special, loving gesture he did for my family. Craig will forever be remembered as a brother from another family. He will be truly missed

Sheri Goldgehn - September 09, 2019 at 07:55 PM