



Larry C. Smith

March 20, 1956 - April 13, 2020

Lawrence “Larry” Charles Smith, 64, of Litchfield, NH, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, April 13, 2020 at home, following a time of declining health.

Larry was born March 20, 1956 in Southampton, NY, son of the late Lawrence Charles and Maureen Kathleen (Muldowney) Smith. He grew up on Rector Street in Sag Harbor, Long Island, NY; graduated from Pierson High School in 1974; was awarded a NYS Regents Scholarship; and studied computer science and robotics at SUNY Oswego and Stony Brook. At the end of his last semester at Stony Brook in 1978, Larry returned home to pack his worldly goods, primarily his already extensive library and moved to Nashua, NH for the job that awaited him at Digital Equipment. He embraced New Hampshire as his home and would only admit to being born in New York when pressed. In 1993, he and wife, Marjorie, moved to Litchfield, NH.

Larry was a Software Engineer for many area tech companies including Sanders, Atex, Zeta, Apollo, HP, Cabletron, Compaq, Red Hat and Wild Open Source. He authored novels, short stories, role playing games and technical articles. Larry collected calculators, music boxes, chess sets, books and puns. He raised wonderful cats, who never ceased to amaze visitors with how affectionate, companionable and zany they were. He enjoyed chocolate, Irish music, model rocketry, robotics, politics, being a Game Master, reading to his family and spending time with his wife, son, cats and an eclectic circle of amazing friends.

Larry was the beloved husband of Marjorie (Clark) Smith of Litchfield with whom he shared 29 years of marriage and the adored father of Lawrence C. Smith III of Litchfield, NH. He also leaves his brother, Kevin Smith, wife Patricia Turner and nephew, Daniel Smith of Sherman Oaks CA; step-siblings, Victoria (Frisch) Bonsignore and husband Michael of Hillsborough, NC, Neil Frisch and wife Iris of DC and Elizabeth (Frisch) Yennie and husband Jeff of Sag Harbor, NY; one step-niece and five step-nephews; and enumerable cousins largely of NY, especially Patricia Murawski and her husband John of Westhampton, NY; as well as, brothers-in-law, Herbert Clark and wife, Sherry, of Essex,

CT and Leroy "Roy" Clark and wife, Jane, of Old Lyme, CT; two nieces, two nephews, six great-nieces, and two great-nephews. He was predeceased by step-nephew, Gabriel Bonsignore of VA.

Following cremation, a private service will be held for the family. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in his name to your local animal shelter or your favorite charity.

Comments



“ Dear Marjie and Lar,

Words can't express our heartfelt sorry over Larry's passing. I remember him doing rockets at Wilmot and chess merit badge. After reading his obituary, I am sorry that I did not know him better. I would have enjoyed discussing Irish music and finding out that he took robotics in college is exciting where my son majored in that too. You can see the measure of a man in the children that he helped raise. Obviously I know Lar well and know how well you and Larry raised him. As a father also, I feel his pride in his son. Wishing you comfort, Dick and Sue Rafferty

Dick Rafferty - April 29 at 11:02 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Donna - April 27 at 12:38 AM



“ 7 files added to the album Memories Album



Donna - April 27 at 12:23 AM



“ Hi Marjie and Lar!

I enjoyed listening to Celtic music while making a super chocolatey chocolate cake (because for me no Larry-centric celebration is complete without being tasked by Marjie to make frosting and decorate the cake she baked that morning). I spent the day watching Outlander as today's other projects required a watching activity rather than a reading one. And while I'm not particularly fond of phish food ice cream I felt as though "chocolate therapy" seemed like an acceptable alternate flavor that Larry

would approve of.

Oh and I've had "Amazing Grace" to the tune of "Gilligan's Island" stuck in my head on repeat for the past week and threw in some solid "Larry, you're full of it" looks for good measure!

With much love,

Becca



Becca Delorie - April 26 at 07:10 PM

 “ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Elizabeth Clark - April 26 at 01:43 PM

 “ The Irish Rovers rendition of "Star of the County Down" is playing. I can smell the corned beef simmering away for boiled dinner tonight. Ranger is in my lap purring exhausted from playing. I feel Larry with me. I miss him so, but I cherish the memories.

Marjie

Marjorie Smith - April 26 at 01:10 PM

 “ Part 2

Ok. Larry was smart, loved to poke fun and had a great imagination. He was the consummate nudge! He could always “get ya”. I never knew if I could trust what he was saying, he got me that many times. He would innocently start talking about

snortfloggers. He would elaborate on how snortfloggers were used and how incredibly useful to the indigenous population they were. He could go on forever dragging me and the snortfloggers on for an embarrassingly long amount of time before the little voice in my head would say “Hey, wait a second. What?”, then came the big grin, the twinkle in the eye and the big heart felt laugh! That was Larry!

It is no wonder a man who can make a room laugh, hold your attention with plausible falsehoods and ignite conversations with little known or useful factoids would eventually turn to writing as an outlet. Larry’s expertise and success at running Dungeons and Dragons for both adults and kids is telling of his ability to create worlds and characters within it that hold the attention of anyone with the fortune to enter it. So why not write a book? He did. More than one.

The Smiths family as a whole is a tight knit private one, but from time to time I got glimpses inside. Sometimes it was the way Larry and Marjie looked at each other, their kind words or their support of each other. For them family was first as it should be, yet even when it became tough to do so Larry would find a way share his wife. Marjie, Lar, my girls and I have been doing an annual camping trip since forever. We have not missed a year since early 2000s. It’s at these times some of the family traditions would be shared. Larry reads out loud at home. Marjie loves and cherishes that time. She would bring a book, usually involving dragons and read around the campfire. To this day my girls and I cherish those memories. Thank you Larry. Thank you Marjie. These times became more precious as Larry’s dependence increased and it was difficult on him for Marjie to be away with friends. The fact that she camped with us last year stands as testament to how much he wanted her to be happy.

Christmas at the Smiths is magical. Luckily for my family, tradition in my house included a visit to the Smith’s on Christmas. There is nothing more moving on Christmas as the sound of Larry’s large music box playing Christmas carols. At some point Larry took a fancy to music boxes and acquired a few of his own. The music box we played on Christmas was not your small shelf top variety that would let out a delicate short tune when the top was lifted. This one is cabinet sized and easily filled the house with its enchanted melodies of joy that lifted your spirits and touched you deep in your core. We would find a comfy spot to sit and play disc after disc. Larry in his spot, often with a cat on top, content expression, eyes closed and the pleasant hint of a smile.

Is Larry a leprechaun? I know to Marjie he was the biggest leprechaun. But let’s take an engineer’s look at the qualifications sans the small stature:

Leprechaun check list:

1. Has a Birthday in March within days of St Patrick’s Day. ✓
2. Love of New England boiled dinner ✓
3. Mischief maker, nudge ✓
4. Great sense of humor ✓
5. Love of Irish music, all kinds: jigs, reels, ballads, drinking tunes ✓
6. If you a leprechaun he would reveal his treasure (his family) ✓
7. Has a beard ✓

I vote yes.

So there you have it, memories of Larry. Tomorrow I will celebrate his life with his family and friends but apart as we must do at this time. I will do some of the things he liked to do. I will recall the passion with which he did them. I am grateful to have been let into his world.



Danielle Morano - April 25 at 11:38 PM



“ Marjorie Smith is following this tribute.

Marjorie Smith - April 20 at 04:08 PM



“ I have learned quite a handful of stories about Larry from his son Lar. Many about his table top role-playing game escapades!

These stories have helped me get interested in these games even further! I'm so glad I have been able to learn these stories.

Matt NO - April 19 at 11:35 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Patricia Turner - April 19 at 11:26 PM



“ I think it's safe to say that Larry saved my life. I was beyond desolate when my mother found an ad in the DEC news that Larry posted looking for people to join a role playing group he was starting. 1979 I stopped thinking about hurting myself to deal with the loneliness and starting thinking about rolling dice and being a person of

power and ability in my own life. I found a community. Thanks so much, Larry. Without your support and encouragement, I'm not sure I would have made it.

David Kukla - April 18 at 05:30 PM



“ Wow, I never realized the state of your emotional well being at the time!? I'm thankful that Larry introduced us to one another.

Rob - April 18 at 05:46 PM



“ When I was fifteen my mother remarried. She got a new husband I got two amazing brothers. Anybody who knew me back then knows Kevin and I were the best of friends. Larry and I had a unique relationship. Larry and I saw eye to eye on almost nothing. He is very conservative, I am a left wing wannabe socialist. He was a straight laced honor student who wanted to major in math in college (he did). I was a hard partying high school dropout. He wanted to build robots. I wanted to build race cars. But one thing anybody who knew Larry knows. Larry was smarter than all of us. The man had a brain as big as the rest of him, and Larry was a very large man. He always had a soft spot for animals and maybe that is why he put up with me. But Larry and I loved each other like only brothers can.

When I was young I partied a lot. I drank endlessly and did a lot of drugs. Larry was always the voice of reason telling me how foolish I was being and keeping me from doing really stupid things. Damn I am going to miss that. The last couple of decades we didn't have a lot of contact. But I thought of him a lot. Just this Sunday past, I was looking at land for my upcoming retirement and I saw references to snowmobile trails. I immediately thought of Larry. When he first told me he had bought a snowmobile I didn't believe it was really him talking. I couldn't imagine Larry donning goggles and flying through the snow, on a motorcycle with treads and skis, instead of tires. I was looking forward to finally getting to hit the trails with him and his wife next year. But I guess that won't be happening.

Larry passed away on Sunday. I lost my brother and the world lost an incredible man.



Neil Frisch - April 18 at 01:12 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



The Curtin Family - April 17 at 09:52 PM



“ We will remember Clark family holidays and VT gatherings spent together. Sending love and prayers during this difficult time. With sympathy, David, Kristen, Julia and Gabi

Kristen Clark - April 17 at 09:38 PM



“ Marjie and Lar, we are so very sorry for your loss. It is so hard to believe that Larry is gone, but you and Lar now have a guardian angel to watch over you. Marjie, you and Larry had a very special love that is not seen too often. We are so sorry!

With Love,
The Curtin Family



The Curtin Family - April 17 at 04:31 PM



“ Mrs, Smith and Lar, I am so sorry for your loss. From the first time I met him to the last time that I saw him, Mr. Smith was a great joy to be around. His Wit, Intelligence and Humor were always delightful to hear! I will miss "Gaming" in your basement with Mr. Smith as the "Game Master." I will miss the many parties at your house. I will miss all of the adventures that you were all so kind to have me be a part of, whether it was King Richard's Fair, Mystic Connecticut, or Vermont. I see Mr. Smith as a second father to me, and I will greatly miss him.

With Much Love and Affection,
Jack Curtin, jr.





“ Thank you to all, who have reached out to us here and through other avenues. Your caring is getting us through this very difficult time.

We hope you will share your memories and photos here as a way to celebrate Larry's life together even if we are unable to that in person right now.

Marjie and Lawrence(Lar)

Marjorie Smith - April 16 at 07:36 PM



“ To my dear Cousin Larry, You will always be in our hearts, never to forget. I have so many great memories of you, Cuz. From teaching me how to ride a bike, teaching me to swim, teaching me the computer and teaching me to ride a snow mobile. You were the brother I never had. Watch over us, Cuz.....love and miss you.....

Patti Murawski - April 17 at 07:25 AM



“ Larry was one of those "It's A Wonderful Life" people for me. He introduced me to so many things that became integral parts of my life. Without him, I would never have been encouraged to pursue my interest in science fiction, fantasy, and games which would eventually become a career for me. Over the years, everything I've written was, at some level, compared in my heart to the excitement and drama of Larry's storytelling.

I always talk about what a great friend and mentor Larry was when someone asks me about my early days in gaming. Even my children, who never met him, know his name and his gifts.

William W. Connors - April 17 at 09:53 AM



“ I met Larry just after I'd finished high school and he'd finished college. It's hard to put into words how knowing him affected my life. I guess, at the time, I was sorta like a sole spinning gear. Larry came along, with compatible gear teeth, engaged me, and connected me to this whole cool transmission! I wouldn't say that "he gave my life purpose", but he did understand what I saw as my purpose and provided me with some fundamental tools and inspiration to get where I wanted/needed to go.

Larry was a friend and mentor. As I reflect on the details of how he influenced my life, I tug on strings that just seem to go deeper and deeper into who I am today. I'm so grateful for knowing him... and for all he's given me.

Thanks, Lar.

Rob Caswell - April 17 at 10:59 AM



“ I'm sorry to hear Marjie. My best to you and Lar.

Betty Vaughan - April 17 at 11:06 AM



“ Dear Marjie & Lar:

Our heartfelt condolences!

Larry rest in peace in the great beyond. In the few times we met you, you were always an interesting man with great insights.

You will be missed. . .

Grace & Ted Brunken

Grace & Ted - April 17 at 02:38 PM