



Adam K. Olson

May 11, 1983 - November 1, 2022

Adam Kramer Olson, our dearest son and brother, passed away suddenly on November 1, 2022, in Rochester, Michigan. Born on May 11, 1983, raised in Oakland Township and attended Rochester Community Schools. Adam was a graduate of Rochester Adams High School, class of 2001. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts at Michigan State University in 2005. He was a talented graphic artist and coder who spent most of his career in New York City, residing in Astoria, NY. Adam's graphics were featured to illustrate the completed construction of the rebuild of the Freedom Tower at Ground Zero. Adam's work took him internationally as he spoke several languages. He recently created graphics as an independent contractor. Adam was also the Trivia Master "Supreme" at the former Black & White Bar in New York City. Unique and quirky, he was an interesting conversationalist. He leaves behind his buddy Mermaid, the cat. He is survived by parents Greg and Jan Olson of Rochester, Michigan; sister Lauren Olson of Napa, California; uncle Richard Olson of Arkansas; cousin Kelly (Jim) Knight of Farmington Hills, Michigan; and cousin Michael (Maria) Kramer of South Lyon, Michigan, and many loving friends. We will all miss Adam forever.

Memorial visitation Tuesday, November 8th from 6:30 pm until time of the service 7 pm, at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Adam's name are requested to the Epilepsy Foundation Donate Now (<https://g>

ive.epilepsy.com/page/33651/donate/1)

Share a memory at www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

NOV 8. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak
705 W. Eleven Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067
(248) 541-7000
royal@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Celebration of Life

NOV 8. 7:00 PM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

AS

“ No words can truly convey the unique brilliance, infectious humor, bizarre antics and welcoming persona of Adam K. Olson. Adam was immensely creative; he could craft an extraordinary tale from both the most mundane and esoteric facts. He could spin outlandish yarns spanning Sasquatch sightings to Carl Sagan to pop culture parodies.

He did impressions of us all; unflattering and hilarious, but with good intention. He had a stellar 1950s radio announcer voice. Adam once denounced all analog music, doubling down on his love of electronic music from Throbbing Gristle to Kraftwerk to Depeche Mode. He thrived off of adventures, traveling to the most obscure sites he could find across the U.S. and abroad. At times he was Vonnegut meet Barthes meets Philip K. Dick meets Kids in the Hall. He was outrageously funny and warm, with a perspective like none other.

Some may say he was eccentric or quirky; he was, but those words don't do justice to the myriad of ideas, art, design and words he brought into this world. This planet lost someone special. We will honor you by continuing to embrace the weirdness in this world.

Angela Sundstrom - December 07, 2022 at 01:20 PM

JG

“ In high school, all the cool kids played with Linux as an operating system alternative to Windows. So one day, I decided to ask Adam about what his favorite operating system was, expecting that he'd tell me something interesting about Linux. Instead, he blew me away when he answered “BeOS.” That was the first I'd ever heard of BeOS! Adam always surprised me with knowledge and insight that inspired me to look deeper into things. To this day whenever I hear about BeOS or it's open-source successor, “Haiku,” I think of Adam.

Joe Gotham - November 15, 2022 at 12:32 AM

KE

“ A remarkable, unforgettable soul who I have remembered fondly for many years despite rarely keeping in touch. I will respect his privacy, but will share one of many lovely moments because this memory occurred in public. Once at Christmas time he gave me a box of rainbow-flavored candy canes (he knew they were a sentimental favorite) and he took all dozen candy canes out of the box and individually wrapped them in bubble wrap, despite that he was delivering them in person. The reason being that each candy cane was that way a treat and a fun little tactile game- this is the deeply listening and insightful person I knew Adam to be. He remains one of the most interesting and thoughtful creatures to bless any person's lifetime. What a privilege to know him when we were young.

Kelly Embach - November 14, 2022 at 03:05 PM

MW

“ When I met Adam early in our freshman year of college, I was baffled. He was charging down the hallway in full cycling gear, gesturing wildly, and repeating Kraftwerk lyrics until our paths crossed. I was in the presence of a person unlike anyone I had ever met. I still feel that way about Adam, 20 years later.

In addition to his distinctive style and wonderfully eccentric persona, Adam was a fiercely loyal friend. He offered unwavering support to his friends, quite often putting his own comfort and needs aside for the benefit of others. I've never met someone who was so quick to jump into action, without any reservations, to help a friend in need.

And we had so many adventures. Then again, everything felt like an adventure when Adam was involved. They say that only boring people get bored. There was never a dull moment with Adam K. Olson. He eschewed creature comforts in favor of experiences and always kept moving. He chose to laugh at the absurdities of the world and let us in on the joke.

Adam, I miss you more than these few words can express. I'll keep your memory alive as long as I am able. Rest easy now.

Matt Winters - November 08, 2022 at 08:45 PM

HS

“ Adam Olson was the kind of person who leaves an indelible mark on your life, however brief he interacts with it. I first met Adam while we were in college and even then, among our misfit group of friends, he stood out for his eccentric style and colorful personality. Luckily, I had the fortune of seeing him many times after college as well, while I lived in NYC—at one time as a roommate and then later as a neighbor just down the street. It was at that time I really got to know Adam.

Adam was the kind of person who endlessly hunted for the bizarre and unique. Every single one of his friends has an “Adam story” full of adventure, comedy, (at times cryptids), absurdity, and the zeal in which he lived. For Adam, it was just part of who he was. For the rest of us, it was a step into the wild unknown with Adam as the guide. And he always made an excellent guide.

I’m so grateful for the things he shared with us: his true love of all electronic music, his knowledge of art, science-fiction, obscure historical facts, odd phrases in other languages, and above all his kindness. I’ll miss you Adam. I hope you knew how much we all loved you.

Harold Scissors - November 07, 2022 at 11:01 PM

AC

“ I have been friends with Adam for 20+ years. We first met when he was a freshman and I was a sophomore in college at Michigan State. Later, we moved to New York together – Adam found us our first apartment in NYC. We lived together for years.

Being with Adam was like standing next to a whirlwind. You never knew what you were going to get – thoughts, observations, anecdotes, science facts, impressions, satire, bizarre and hilarious movie concepts. He was so full of knowledge, ideas, and creativity that I often felt limited when in conversation with him – as if I couldn't cognitively process the flood of information. One thing I always knew about talking with Adam – it would not be mundane or boring. Adam was brilliant.

He was a maker. He was one of the most inventive people I have ever met. Over the years I knew him I watched him make countless things – from a steam-powered computer to over-the-top Halloween costumes, to precise and professional graphic designs, to once turning our apartment bathroom into a DIY printing shop for his own designs. Like his observations, he was overflowing with the creative spark, and I remember being amazed how easily both the inspiration and the skill to do it came to him.

Adam was also kind. For all his flights of fancy, he was a reliable, loyal, and caring friend. You could count on him to be there when you needed help. I think everyone in our group of friends relied on his help at one time or another. He was a good friend, and he was there for you when it mattered.

Most of all what I think of when I think of my friend Adam is laughing. These past few days after hearing the news I have often found myself laughing through the tears. We laughed together a lot. Adam seemed to comprehend the absurdity of the world and throw that absurdity back at it with all the vigor and wit of a modern jester. Even if something was going really wrong, Adam could find the humor in it. He filled our years with laughter, and he helped us all

cope.

If you met him, even just once, you remembered him.

I have never known anyone like Adam K. Olson, and I expect I never will again. We will miss you always, my friend.

Andrew Chappell - November 07, 2022 at 08:16 PM

JF

“Adam was one of the first friends I made in nyc. He had an infectious kindness, a knack for observation that allowed him to mine humor from pretty much anything, it was impossible to be around him without laughing and smiling. He brought so much joy and never asked enough for himself. I remember him wearing a silly paper crown at Easter with my family. I remember him cuddling our black cat Juliet at Christmas, and then finding so much happiness in Mermaid. I remember the treats he brought us from Japan, playing MST3K on movie nights, NYE trivia, touring Sleepy Hollow, and so many other moments that it pains me to know we won't make new memories.

Jamie Florence - November 07, 2022 at 10:11 AM

CF

“Adam got me started in 3D animation and programming with the Robotics team in high school; which sent me off to art school and my current life. I wouldn't know where I'd be without him, truly!

Carl Fristad - November 04, 2022 at 08:46 PM

MR

“ Adam worked with me and for me on multiple occasions over the years on a colorful assortment of media and marketing projects — he was even a trusted caretaker of our family pets! Always interesting, consistently brilliant and awfully funny ... I'll miss him very much.

Matthew Rothenberg - November 04, 2022 at 05:39 PM

MF

“ I only know Adam through his sister Lauren. Come to think of it, I'm not sure I've ever met Lauren's parents either. But I have heard so much about Lauren's whole family that they are all vivid and wonderful in my eyes. I am thinking of all of you and sending the biggest hugs. Love, Maya

Maya Fischhoff - November 04, 2022 at 04:38 PM

LI

“ I met Adam when I was 20 in NYC. We went to many nightclubs and lived together for a little while. He was a very fun, interesting, and smart man. He was very caring too. He took care of me when I had the flu couldn't get out of bed, bringing me supplies. We fell out of contact years ago but I will always remember him and I'm heartbroken to hear of his passing. I send much love to his spirit, and to his family and friends affected by his loss.



Lindsey - November 04, 2022 at 01:23 PM