



John A. Halpin

July 6, 1963 - July 31, 2016

Eureka- John A. Halpin, 53, of Eureka, IL passed away at 2:48 a.m. on Sunday, July 31, 2016 in Chillicothe, IL.

He was born on July 6, 1963 in Philadelphia, PA the only son of John P. and Bernadette Newshel Halpin. He married Rosalynne (Rose) Jean Palko on March 2, 1991 in Joliet, IL. She survives.

Surviving are two daughters, Christina N. (Jerimiah) Bowald of Peoria; Sophie K. Halpin of Eureka; father, John P. Halpin of Levittown, PA; grandchildren, Timothy E. Bowald; Arianna B. Bowald of Peoria; Aunt and Uncle, Tony & Ginny Newshel of Avalon, NJ; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother and grandparents, Edmond & Laura Newshel.

John taught cognitive Psychology as a tenured professor at Eureka College for 15 years. He was also a department chair, academic affairs chair, and interim Dean for a short time. More recently he drove an over-the-road, long distance semi for Lucky Trucking, Ltd., Rosewood Health Care and ACM Care. He worked at the Chronicle Media, LLC in Eureka as an office manager for the last five years.

John attended St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary School and Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Philadelphia, Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

John was a member of the Great Plains Zen Center in Palatine, IL and was an ordained Zen Buddhist priest. He was a long-time member of the Eureka Lion's Club up until this year.

John loved his family dearly and loved his cat(s), all different types of music, literature, and Bath Rugby, Philadelphia Eagles, Wisconsin Badgers, and the Green Bay Packers.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 6, 2016 at the Eureka Christian Church. Rev. Lucy Maier and Roshi Susan Myoyu Andersen will officiate. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2016 at the Argo-Ruestman-Harris Funeral Home in Eureka and also one hour prior to services at the church on Saturday. Burial will be in Olio Township Cemetery in Eureka. After the committal services at the grave the family would like to invite friends and family back to the Eureka Christian Church for a luncheon.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Eureka Public Library or Eureka Food Pantry.

Online tributes and condolences may be made at www.argoruestmanharris.com.

Cemetery

Events

Olio Twp

AUG **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

5

Eureka, IL,

Argo-Ruestman-Harris Eureka

508 South Main Street, Eureka, IL, US, 61530-1316

AUG **Funeral service** 11:00AM

6

Eureka Christian Church

302 S. Main, Eureka, IL, US, 61530

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



argo ruestman - August 04, 2016 at 12:10 PM



“

Rose,

Haven't seen you and John since the wedding. Breaks my heart to see this now and hard for me to put in words the loss I feel. Smartest man I've ever met. Kind, gracious, dedicated friend.

He was like a little brother in our time together at Vanderbilt, and I deeply regret not keeping in touch.

Here's just a couple memories of our time together. After crashing through rain and fog (and one toll barrier) driving a u-haul with his meagre belongings to an internship in Minnesota, John asked me at some dive restaurant (looking at all the Scandinavian patrons), "Is everyone in this state Republican".

John was my guest for many Sunday Chicken dinners (between the two of us a chicken in the oven was a major event, it was the only thing we knew how to cook).

Only he would remember riding on the back of my motorcycle carrying a Jambaylia (hours of fanny farmer cook book), hitting the pavement, and scooping up the dregs so we could do the pot luck with torn clothes and a full bowl

John was my best friend then, and I miss him very much now.

Scot

(he also loved a band from Philly 'Hooters', and he was infatuated with two albums that I had back then. He loved Fear of Flying by the Hometown Band. I think of John every time I listen to that album, particularly that song, and I will forever. The other was an early Little Feat Album 'Sailing Shoes'. I still play guitar and think of John when I'm doing songs from that album. I wish he would've known.

Much love to you and your daughters. I am missing John today, very much, and will always.

Scot

Scot - December 16, 2016 at 01:52 AM



“ Rose,

John and I met on our first day at Franklin and Marshall. We lived on the same dorm floor and became fast friends. So much so that we ended up being roommates for our final two years and shared many adventures and life memories. Halps (as his friends called him) was funny, kind, and incredibly intelligent (even though he tried to hide that from us as gesture of modesty). Although time and distance separated us after college, his friendship was always something I held dear. In recent years we shared an occasional email and I had hopes of seeing him again and meeting you and your daughters. When I learned (only today) of his passing, I was as profoundly saddened as if we were still living together in college - a testament to the rich character and meaningful relationship John fostered. I wish you and your family the comfort of his loving memory. Rest in peace Halps.

Jeffrey Mandel - August 25, 2016 at 08:24 PM



“ I worked with John Halpin at Eureka College. We turned out to have much in common. As I like to say it, the Baha'i and the Buddhist Faiths both are religions that start with 'B'. ;)

We worked together well, and had many good conversations, professional, religious, and personal.

There was a time when I was facing surgery, and it was not clear if I would survive or not. John wrote to me an email, titled 'mushy thoughts':

"I heard through two grapevine strands that you are facing some pretty serious surgery. For what it's worth, I wanted to convey that I care about you.

....Yes, you can be a difficult SOB at times! But I've never found you to be anything other than a man of the highest integrity. It is truly not often that I, as an introvert, come across someone whom I wish I would take the time to get to know better.

.... If there is anything I can do before or after your surgery, please let me know. It can be anything: raking leaves, selling popcorn, holding AAC's feet to the accountability fire...."

When he left the College, I kept in touch as best I could by email.

He told me more than once that, even though his schedule did not allow a get together, he truly appreciated my support. John always was supportive of others even when he himself was in the midst of difficulties.

John was well known on campus for his respect for all life. As I recall, one time there was a stray cat that kept trying to get into the classroom building. Someone, through a misunderstanding, thought that John was letting the cat in, and feeding it, which would have been against the rules. Reluctantly, John clarified the situation. He never let the cat in, but when it snuck in, he would gently take it out. He was reluctant to admit that he took the cat in to the vet for care, and ended up finding it a good home. John was too humble to expect credit for helping a stray cat; only by accident did I find out how important good treatment of animals was to him.

He was always a person who would do the right thing, and never worry about getting credit.

I grew up in the Disciples of Christ Church, and I have always had strong sympathy for the Buddhist traditions, both before and after I joined the Baha'i Faith. I am writing this on the day of his memorial service. It was a special treat for me to see such a beautiful blending of Buddhist and Christian traditions. That says wonderful things about First Christian Church, and about John and Rose's relationship.

I have attended too many memorial services. I was pleased, this time, for the laughter and joy that was part of the service today. I left the service feeling uplifted. I believe we did John proud.

I know that he was a wonderful mentor to his students at the College, he was outstanding as a colleague, and I am deeply grateful to have had a chance to know him. I carry a little bit of him in my heart as I continue in my life.



“ I was very saddened to hear of Dr. Halpin's passing. He left a great impression on me, both as a professor and in individual. He will be deeply missed.

Tyler Bishop - August 06, 2016 at 04:39 PM



“ When I read of John's passing, a flood of memories of our shared time at Eureka College returned. His compassion and intellect are foremost. During our overlapping years, I remember his carefully considered words at Faculty Meetings and at Board of Trustee Meetings, as Faculty Representative. He listened with his mind as well as his spirit and only then gave his insightful responses. Not only did he positively influence the academic life at EC, but he also positively influenced my children's lives in his classroom and with his gentle demeanor. May John's spirit find the calmness of moonlight on quiet water.

Rose, Christina, and Sophie, may your spirits feel a gentle calmness in knowing that you all are held in so many hearts and prayers.

Nancy Genevieve Perkins Kohl

Nancy Genevieve Perkins Kohl - August 05, 2016 at 04:46 PM



“ Professor Halpin was one of the kindest people I've ever known. He was an extraordinary instructor and his impact on my life has been huge. My condolences to the family, and love and peace for you in this difficult time.

Anne B - August 05, 2016 at 02:23 PM



“ I am so saddened to hear of John's passing. He was a wonderful colleague during our shared years at Eureka College. A kind and thoughtful man, John possessed both a wit and an intellect that offered only a glimpse of a much more profound dimension. May he now rest in peace.

My sincere condolences to Rose, Christina and Sophie during this time of sorrow. You will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

Jan Wanack

Jan Wanack - August 05, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ John was one of the most passionate teachers I knew in my time at Eureka. I served with him as co-chairs of the general education committee, and we did manage to change all our students experiences, primarily though the efforts of John. He always tried to do his best for his students and his colleagues. Rest in Peace.

Mike Toliver

Mike Toliver - August 05, 2016 at 10:16 AM



“ Rose,
Sending deepest sympathies to you at John's passing. He was a hardworking colleague at Eureka College and inspired so many students as well as other faculty. He was generous in sharing his understanding of academic and theological subjects and humble about his accomplishments. He made me feel welcome with his meditation group in Bloomington and in Eureka. Always kind and respectful in any exchange I had with him, John also had a quiet wry humor evident in that smile. May he rest in peace. May you and Sophie and Christina be comforted in your grief, and surrounded by deep and tender healing support.

Peg Toliver

Peg Toliver - August 04, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ Studying psychology at F&M and college in general wouldn't have been the same without John's friendship. He was a fantastic lab partner in our cognitive psychology projects--we tested kids on the idea of whether connecting words to the self helped with memory (it did!). He was an inspiration to keep our work to a high standard. We had such a good time with our professors Dr. Tyrrell and Dr. Puff. I remember one time coming into our quantitative statistics class and telling him with great enthusiasm, "John, I gave up caffeine!" Within minutes I fell asleep in the comfy chair right in front of Dr. Lehman with his soothing voice and um, lulling subject matter. John gave me a LOT of grief for that afterwards. We gave each other lots of grief for everything. I declared my major and stacked up the psych classes freshman and sophomore year so that I could be abroad my junior year. He was just taking upper-level courses because he liked to challenge that great brain of his. We stayed after finals one semester to finish our papers, working on the main frame computer in the computer lab--it was a lot of work, but it was also a blast to hang out with John and I had to work hard to keep up with him.

John walked me home innumerable times from our late-night studies at the off-campus psych lab, which often included hours-long tangential conversations and spirited arguments. I remember his concern for me if he wasn't there to walk me back to campus, insisting that I call security to come meet me and yelling at me when I didn't comply. I was hard on him about his sometimes rough language (and his roommates made fun of him for trying to listen to me). I was so touched when years later he thanked me for my insistence. He was kind and smart and quirky and devoted to his mom.

I remember going with him to a Chinese restaurant in Lancaster where he ordered a hamburger and he didn't eat much in the way of vegetables in the dining hall besides lettuce (all of which I gave him a hard time about)! He joined me at the local mall when I got my ear double-pierced. I shamed him into riding the Super-Duper Looper with me at Hershey Park. I got off thinking it wasn't that bad or scary, but he told me, "Don't you ever do that again!" (In my defense, I didn't!) I'm sure I have some photos from that time at my mother's house, but not with me in my Brooklyn apartment. I am so glad to see his smiling face in the videos and that beautiful photo above. I'd been trying to get in touch with him recently and couldn't find him, so I was already missing him before I got the news. Now I will miss you forever, John. Rose, and Christina, and Sophie, I am so glad he had you, and I am deeply sorry for your loss.

Love,
Susan
Susan Marston

Susan Marston - August 04, 2016 at 01:26 PM



“ Rose, Christina, and Sophie, I'm so sorry for your loss! John was such a kind, gentle, intelligent, and thoughtful person! You are in my prayers. With love, Lila Gammon

Lila Gammon - August 04, 2016 at 12:52 PM



“ 104 files added to the album LifeTributes



argo ruestman - August 04, 2016 at 12:02 PM



“ The nicest man I ever knew. Brian Sajko

Brian Sajko - August 04, 2016 at 12:02 AM



“ Lyn and Bob Kolb purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of John A. Halpin.



Lyn and Bob Kolb - August 03, 2016 at 04:03 PM



“ On behalf of the Eureka College community, our deepest condolences to John's family and friends. We pray the love and support of your community brings you comfort and strength.

Sincerely,

Bruce Fowlkes
Eureka College Chaplain

Bruce Fowlkes - August 03, 2016 at 09:24 AM



“ Rose so sorry to hear of John's passing. Thinking of you and the girls.
Barb Strand

barb - August 03, 2016 at 07:23 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Chuck Burns - August 03, 2016 at 12:51 AM



“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Chuck Burns - August 03, 2016 at 12:43 AM



“ Rose our prayers are with you and families

Valerie mooberry - August 03, 2016 at 07:52 AM



“ Rose and Family,

We have been thinking of you constantly and send our love and prayers to you and your family.

Love, Joanna, Nino and Frankie Capobianco

Joanna Capobianco - August 03, 2016 at 10:58 AM



“ Rose,

My heart and prayers are with you and your family. I so remember you and John in the first bloom of love while we were students. I know you shared many happy hours with him.

Leslie Munson

Leslie M - August 02, 2016 at 10:58 PM



“ Dear Rose and family,

I am so very sorry for your loss. May the strength of the Lord be with all of you.

Sincerely, Julie Hapeman

Julie Hapeman - August 02, 2016 at 07:55 PM



“ To John's Family,

I worked with John through email & phone with our publishing company to Chronicle Media. John was always the utmost professional; punctual with anything I needed for us, our clients & always so very kind. We send our deepest condolences to his wife, daughters, grandchildren & families.

Lovingly,

Kris & Ben Desnoyers

Kris Desnoyers - August 02, 2016 at 03:08 PM



“ Rose, you and your family are being surrounded with love and prayers during this terribly difficult time. May happy memories bring you some comfort and peace. Big hugs to you...God bless and bless and bless!



Stephanie Churchill - August 02, 2016 at 12:44 PM