



Michael Rothenberg

FEB 17, 1951 - NOV 21, 2022



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Michael Rothenberg transitioned on November 21st in Tallahassee. Born on February 17th, 1951 in Miami Beach, Florida, he decided at 15 years old that he wanted to be a poet. He became a highly published poet, prolific artist, songwriter, editor and was a lifelong activist and lover of nature. Michael lived in Northern California for many years where he cultivated orchids and bromeliads in Pacifica, at his nursery Shelldance, which is still run by his first spouse, Nancy Victoria Davis. While in California, he founded Big Bridge Magazine, one the first online literary journals, and helped create Poets in Need, a group providing emergency funds to poets in crisis. In 2011, he and second spouse Terri Carrion founded the international organization 100 Thousand Poets for Change and The “Read A Poem To A Child” Initiative. Together in 2016 they moved to Tallahassee and found their home on the shores of Lake Jackson. Michael was an inspiring force in the creative community of Tallahassee and organized many cultural events and performances. Most memorable are his poetry performances with renowned local musicians. He also was Florida State University Libraries Poet in Residence and FSU Special Collections and Archives now house his personal papers.

<https://archives.lib.fsu.edu/repositories/10/resources/99>.

He is survived by his spouse Terri Carrion, uncle Paul Kane, and cousin Bill Kane. He is preceded in death by his brother Bruce Rothenberg, son Cosmos Rothenberg, and lifelong friend Alex Grief. His beloved surrogate family Devin Grief, Ali Grief, and Donna Grief and hundreds of friends and admirers around the world will miss him greatly. A memorial service and celebration of life is to be announced soon.

Michael Rothenberg has published over 20 books of poetry, most recently In Memory of A Banyan Tree, Poems of the Outside World, 1985-2020 (Lost Horse Press) I Murdered Elvis, (Alien Buddha Press) The Pillars (Quaranzine Press) and Drawing the Shade (Dos Madres Press). His



Obituary

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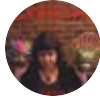
editorial work includes several volumes in the Penguin Poets series: *Overtime* by Philip Whalen, *As Ever* by Joanne Kyger, *David's Copy* by David Meltzer, and *Way More West* by Ed Dorn. He is also editor of *The Collected Poems of Philip Whalen* published by Wesleyan University Press. For full details of all his books, recordings, broadsides, collaborations, and overall amazing creative life visit his Wikipedia page at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Rothenberg



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Larissa Shmailo posted:

My deepest condolences. Michael published my anthology, Twenty-first Century Russian Poetry, and we collaborated on many 100,000 Poets for Change readings. He was a force for good in the world, and will be sorely missed. Larissa Shmailo

December 3 at 8:52 AM



Marina Lazzara lit a candle in honor of Michael.

Michael, from being students together at NCOC to jamming behind you with Rockpile...I just always thought we'd cross paths once again. I am so grateful for how you never doubted that poetry's place in the world was one of purpose and light. It will take a while for my brain to understand this. My heart is full and sad and in celebration of you. Be well, my friend.



November 29 at 10:39 AM



Tricia Ansley lit a candle in honor of Michael.



November 27 at 5:23 PM



Su Zi lit a candle in honor of Michael.

Michael interviewed me for Big Bridge, which is how we met ,virtually; however, we met in person for 100TPC. He was a pillar of contemporary poetry, a fun conversationalist and a person deeply dedicated to poetry, community and social justice



November 27 at 8:02 AM



Terri Carrion shared a photo to the **Michael** album.



November 24 at 11:49 AM

TC **Terri Carrion** November 25 at 7:43 PM
Michael in full poetic force.



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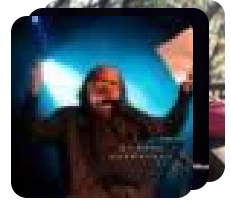
Terri Carrion lit a candle in honor of Michael.



November 24 at 10:07 AM



Terri Carrion shared 3 photos to the **Michael** album.



November 23 at 1:36 PM



Media

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Terri Carrion shared a photo to the **Michael** album.

November 24 at 11:49 AM



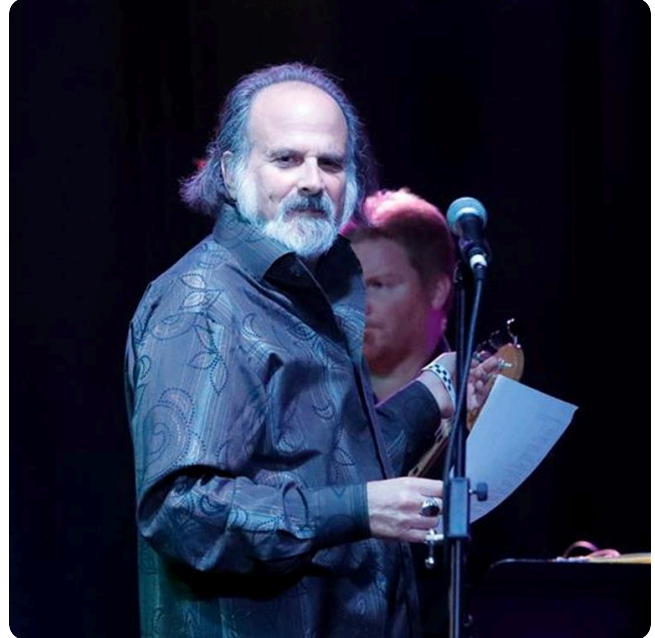
Terri Carrion November 25 at 7:43 PM

Michael in full poetic force.



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November 23 at 1:36 PM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Michael by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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