



Mr. Bruce W. Hanke

November 3, 1958 - October 11, 2015

Surrounded by family and close friends, Bruce Hanke left this world on Monday, October 12, after a courageous battle with cancer. Bruce was born at Plunkett Memorial Hospital in Adams, Massachusetts on November 3, 1958 to William and Mildred (Kryston) Hanke of East Road in Adams. Growing up on East Road next to his grandmother's (Emma Wenzel) farm, Bruce spent summers and most weekends building dams and fishing in Southwick Brook, picking up hay bales in the fields, exploring the woods, and playing sandlot baseball and football with the neighborhood kids and his older brother, Mike. He attended local schools and then graduated from Hoosac Valley High School in 1977, where he was a stand out on the track team as a long jumper, javelin thrower, and sprinter.

Bruce attended Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, MA for one year, where he majored in fine arts, before transferring to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, and majoring in Communication Design. Bruce explored printmaking and other media while at Pratt, and then in 1982, following his graduation, joined DMCD, an exhibition design firm located in NYC, where he worked for 12 years as a graphic designer. His work won numerous national design awards, including a Presidential Design Award for Blue Heron, a project that he and Mike completed in the late 1980s while at DMCD. In 1994, Bruce became the chief graphic designer at Design Division, Inc., a company Mike had recently formed. While at Design Division, Bruce conceived and designed all of the graphics for the award winning Mashantucket Pequot Museum, the largest Native American Museum in the United States, opening in 1998 in Ledyard, CT. In the early 2000s Bruce took a senior graphic design position with the Option Institute, located in Sheffield, MA.

Bruce began painting seriously in 1990, specializing in figurative, portraiture, and still life subject matter. He won considerable acclaim for his work, which was exhibited widely in galleries in both NYC and internationally. In 2010, his painting titled "Like Father" featuring his son Charlie as a model, was selected for inclusion in the prestigious BP Portrait Award Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London, England.

In the late 1980s he met and married the love of his life, Rebecca Ward, a native of Surrey, England. They lived briefly in Brooklyn, then moved to Kent, CT, where their two sons Henry and Charlie were born. After a short few years in Kent, the family moved to an

expansive Victorian era fixer-upper in Norfolk, CT, where Bruce spent long hours renovating and restoring the home to its original luster. In his spare time he liked to tinker with his prized 1958 Willy's Jeep. Bruce's greatest sense of pride and accomplishment was manifest in his two sons, Henry and Charlie. Bruce was a dedicated father and enjoyed supporting his sons in school and in their various activities. Bruce and his wife Rebecca had many close friends in the Norfolk area, and frequently entertained by hosting wonderful dinner parties and gatherings. Bruce is survived by his wife of 24 years, Rebecca Ward, his sons Henry (18) and Charlie (16), his mother Mildred Hanke of Adams, MA, his brother Mike and his wife Ann Marshall, and their children Sean and Marshall Hanke of Amherst, MA, his best friend Finn Winterson, of Groton, CT, and numerous other family members and close friends. Bruce was much loved by all who got to know him and will be greatly missed.

A gathering to honor Bruce's life will be held in his home at 287 Litchfield Road in Norfolk, CT on October 17, 2015 at 6:00 P.M.

The PACIOREK FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St. Adams, MA is assisting the family with arrangements.

To leave a message of condolence, please go online to www.paciorekfuneral.com

Tribute Wall

BF

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to Bruce's family I went to school with Bruce a real nice guy and friend he will be sadly missed

Bruce Felix - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

TM

“ I was so very sorry to hear of Bruce's passing. He was very special to our whole family; many wonderful childhood memories of our time on the farm with him and Michael. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Tania Messina - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

EE

“ My sister Jutta just called and told me and I am so saddened. Brucie, Mike, Melissa Grande and Billy and Pete were childhood friends, on the farm for many years. We knew Millie and Billie Hanke well and have many fond memories. I pray that God may bless you Millie and Bruces wife and children and of course Mike during this hard time and give you strength and his love. Jutta and I talked of the wonderful memories and I pray that we will all meet again in heaven one day. Amen. With love, Rosie

Erika Rosie Eschrich-Santoro - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

KZ

“ Rebecca, Henry and Charlie, please accept my deepest condolences.

Kathleen Zibell - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ Millie: We were so sorry to read about the loss of your son, Bruce. Our deepest sympathy and know that you and your family are in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. Joan and Joan Michalenko Ewa Beach, HI

June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

SL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the Hanke family and will continue to be so in the coming days and weeks ahead.

Scott & Karen LeBeau - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

HT

“ Our condolences to the Hanke family. May our Father bless each one of you, individually, with His very great comfort and support during this time of familial loss, and thereafter, over each step of your lives. In the most holy name of Jesus, we pray. His servants, Harold and Jean Trumble
Harold and Jean Trumble
Steele,
Alabama

Harold Trumble - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Lisa and Paul Zaiken

June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy for the loss of dear Bruce. Remembering Sunday dinners at our house in New Jersey while Bruce and Mike were at Pratt. Our prayers are with you. Jutta, Marga, Rosi Eschrich and families.

June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

CS

“ Mike, Millie and Rebecca
Though I did not get the chance to know your Bruce well, I have heard fond stories about him for all of the years I have known my Bruce. His death is a great loss for such friends as my husband and an unfathomable one for his family. Know that he will always be a part of our conversations, never to be forgotten, and that you are in our thoughts.
Casey Southard

casey southard - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

AJ

“ Mr. Bruce W. Hanke

Amanda Jones - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

JG

“ Dearest Becka,
I'm sending my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Bruce. I wish I knew him better and had spent more than the brief time I had with him. My love to you and the boys and please know you can call on me for anything, anytime, anywhere.
Love, John

John Germain - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ Dearest Becka, I'm sending my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Bruce. I wish I knew him better and had spent more than the brief time I had with him. My love to you and the boys and please know you can call on me for anything, anytime, anywhere. Love, John Germain

June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

IS

“ Dear Hanke family, on behalf of Elliot, Ivan and Debra Schwartz of Brooklyn NY, can I say how sad we all are to learn of Bruce's death. This is such sad news and we want your family to know that we are all thinking of you at this most difficult moment With heartfelt sympathies Ivan Schwartz

Ivan Schwartz - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM

GB

“ I attended high school with both Mike and Bruce. I did not know Bruce well , but I remember him as a very nice guy. More recently we connected on Facebook. Bruce actually responded to a post about my son who is an artist in Boston. Bruce shared some very encouraging words which I passed on to my son. I am sure this speaks to the type of man he became. My deepest sympathies.

Ginger Dubuc Bard - June 07, 2018 at 11:46 AM



“ Bruce was such a wonderful and beautiful person. He was so talented and gave so much to his family and the art community. He will be missed by many. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

October 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Mike and all of Bruce's family. May he rest in peace.

October 15, 2015 at 12:00 AM