

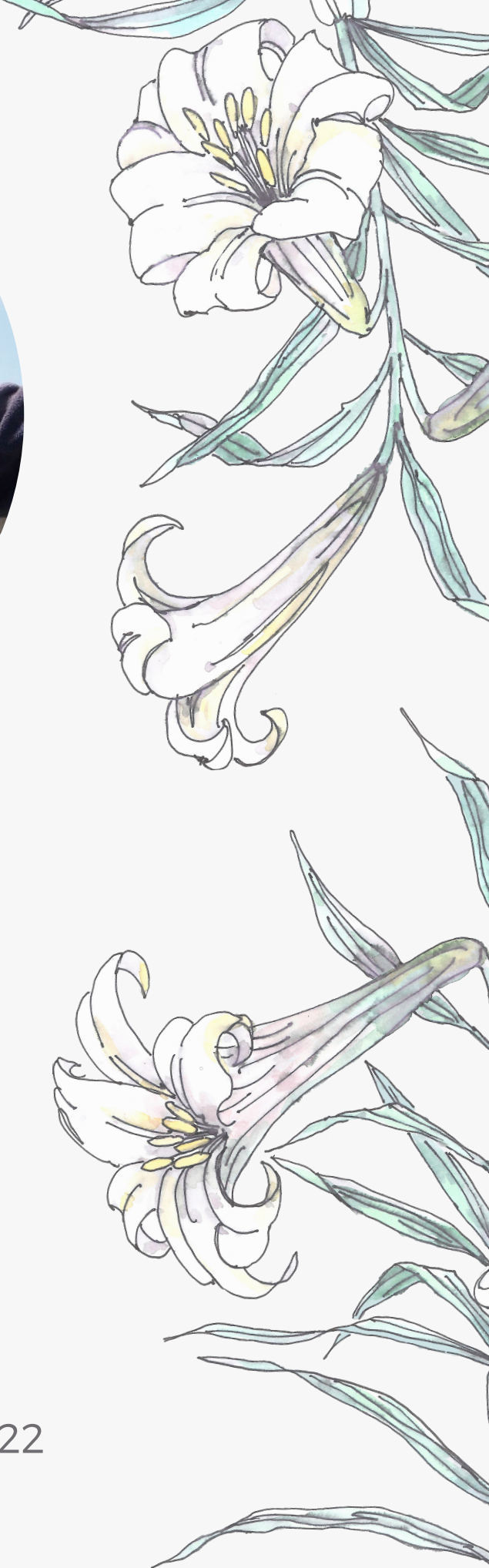


IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Charles Bruce Freas

MAY 22, 1943 - AUGUST 25, 2022

First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF
November 12, 2022



An artistic illustration of three lilies in various stages of bloom, rendered in a soft, painterly style with light green and yellow hues. The lilies are positioned on the left side of the page, with their long, slender leaves extending downwards.

Order of Service

Prelude: 12 Horns by Gabriel Canzon (3:48)

Opening Words : Rev. Millie Phillips

Interlude 1: God Be With You Til We Meet Again - Paul Cardall (3:20)

Poem : He is Gone, adapted from She is Gone, by David Hawkins: Read by Susan Freas, wife

Interlude 2: Follow - Richie Havens (6:08)

Eulogy : Kirk Ronaldson, brother-in-law

Metta on Loving Kindness : Rev. Millie Phillips

Interlude 3: The Time's They Are A-Changin' - Bob Dylan (3:14)

Family Reflections by Jeremy & Adam Freas, sons

Interlude 4: Peace Like A River - Jehovah Shalom (Acapella) (3:38)

Reflection by SF UU Mens group

Interlude 5: Bob Marley - 3 little birds (3:03)

Closing Words : Rev. Millie Phillips

Imagine by John Lennon (3:07)

Gong (Meditation) - led by Jonathan Freas, grandson

Reception to follow in the Starr King Room
(Refreshments and Reflections)

Charlie was born May 22, 1943 in Albany New York, son of Royal Bruce Freas and Marion Mandiville Freas. He and his twin sister Elizabeth, "Biz," spent their early childhood between living on a farm in Albany New York and seaside by the Atlantic ocean in Manchester by the Sea, north of Boston, Massachusetts. Eventually the Freas family moved to Indiana where Charlie became interested in music and sports, playing the French Horn and lettering in wrestling at Seymore High School.

Following graduation, Charlie attended Columbia University in New York City, majoring in Engineering. After which he would spend a year on a scientific research vessel. Charlie then taught Math and Science at Webster Academy, where he also coached Wrestling.

Relocating to Springfield Massachusetts, Charlie met Susan Ronaldson of Longmeadow, MA who he would marry in 1969. The newlyweds moved to Granby, near Amherst MA, where they discovered living in a small cabin in the woods, was an adventure. In those years, Charlie chopped a lot of wood to keep the home warm and cozy. Always interested in solving problems and making things work challenged Charlie's mechanical aptitude seemed a perfect match for him when working on cars and motorcycles. The following year was greeted by the arrival of their first son, Jeremy Lennon Freas. Charlie and Susan loved being parents and enjoyed camping, sledding in the winter, and hiking in the woods that surrounded the cabin.

In December of 1972, the family moved to Fort Lauderdale Florida, where Charlie found work right away with a small engineering firm. Later, Charlie began a long working relationship with Unisys, designing and supervising the installation of computer traffic control systems in Miami. In 1974 a second son, Adam Charles Freas arrived. South Florida was a fantastic place to raise their family, as the ocean near by offered many activities such as swimming, boating, picnics, and nature walks. Over the years, canoeing and camping in Jupiter FL became a wonderful way to spend family time. Charlie also led Cub Scouts and coached Soccer as the boys grew. As coach and/or spectator, Charlie's voice could be heard from the sidelines helping the referees make the right call, which year's later was a staple at Adam's basketball games.

Finalization of the traffic system job led to relocating to Stockton California in 1986, where the rest of the family would join him the following year. The job as site coordinating engineer would prove to be the last with Unisys upon completion of the building of a computer operated warehouse.

Following that, Charlie landed a Civil Engineering job at the San Francisco International Airport, where he served proudly for years, achieving airport employee of the year twice. In 2008, Charlie was diagnosed with Parkinson's, but continued to work at the airport until retirement. As a San Francisco transplant, Charlie found a rebirth in his social activism that was prominent in college, providing support physically (protests) and monetarily to entities like KPFA, Ox Fam and a spectrum of other community-based efforts. In addition to being a man who was well read and steeped in a breadth of subjects, the core of who he was focused on recognizing and supporting the humanity of the underserved and the well-being of others.

Living in Pacifica CA provided a home near the ocean and a short drive over the hill to the airport and life in SF. Overtime as Charlie's Parkinson's disease progressed, he stayed extensively involved with the SF/Bay Area Parkinson's community. As he grew older family supported his transition out of the bay area and back to the valley. He lived primarily in Stockton with his wife, son Jeremy and grandson Jonathan. Many trips to Sacramento provided for cherished moments with all of the family. Charlie was a one-of-a-kind gentleman and community member, nature lover, and someone you never wanted to play trivial pursuit with. He always cared for others through selfless acts, and he had a silly sense of humor. A belief in the teachings of Buddha provided him a patience to live one moment at a time and pursue ways to become a better human. Charlie transitioned peacefully on August 25, 2022. Charlie is survived by his sister, Elizabeth, wife Susan, sons Jeremy and Adam, daughter in-law Teresa Freas, and four grandchildren, Jonathan, Maceo. Miles, and Xiomara.

WE LOVE YOU CHARLIE!

