



Otis E. Finley III

June 22, 1947 - March 31, 2013

Otis E. Finley III, 65, passed away Sunday, March 31, 2013 in a local care home. He

had been struggling with the effects of a stroke for the past 19 months. He was born in

St. Louis, Missouri and grew up in the Boston and New York areas before moving to

California in 1968. He lived in Berkeley, where his daughter, Nyanda was born in 1977.

Some years later, he moved to El Cerrito where he met his wife Nanci. They married in

1990, and their son was born in 1992. The family moved to Benicia in 1999. Otis was

multi-talented and held many different jobs including: woodworker; boatbuilder;

stagehand; sailor and Pegasus Project Captain; and astronomy teacher. He

built an

observatory in the family backyard where he loved to watch the night sky. He was very

gregorious,friendly, outgoing, and kind to all that he met. He was a loving husband,

father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all.

Otis is survived by his wife Nanci; son Tahir Finley, daughter Nyanda Finley de Santos;

brothers John & Paul Finley and his grandson Nandi Finley de Santos. He is preceeded

in death by his parents (Otis and Ethel Finley).

A Celebration of Life will be held 12:00 noon, Saturday, May 11th at the Benicia

Veterans Hall.

Tribute Wall



“ *Otis E. Finley III*

November 29, 2022 at 08:20 PM



“ *We remember Otis (1947-2013). We had a wonderful gathering of friends and family , a "Memorial Star Watching Party For Otis" on March 30, 2014 on the eve of his passing one year ago (March 31,2013). Nanci re-ran his obit in the local paper and placed a dozen beautiful red roses at his gravesite. I miss you every day Otis. I will love you always.*

*Much Love,
Nanci*



Nanci Finley - April 06, 2014 at 02:18 PM



“ *Thank you Otis for your life, you always had a kind word for our ears especially when it was needed*

*Love ya
Tim & Jocelyn*

tim & jocelyn - May 11, 2013 at 01:25 PM

RD

“ *Nanci and Tahir,
We are so sorry for your loss. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you during this difficult time. Our hearts and prayers are with you. Otis will be truly missed.*

Steven, Rachel, Nicholas and Kaitlin DeFazio

Rachel DeFazio - April 11, 2013 at 11:03 PM

DF

“ *Otis made a difference in my life, through his unique way of seeing things, speaking to me, and through his piercing gaze. I am thankful to have known him and will miss him. Rest in peace. With love forever -*

David Firshein

David Firshein - April 11, 2013 at 08:18 PM

MP

“ *4 files added to the album Tribute Wall*



MacWain Phillips - April 07, 2013 at 11:23 PM

MP

*I really like the picture of Otis's father and son, the legacy passes on, and on. Otis, you and Nanci were probably the ones to "blame", woops, I mean thank, for my wife being my wife, and for me to have a family in this lifetime. I remember both of you hollering at me from a tent at Camp Lotus on the American River, saying, "Stop being stupid, when are you going to get married and have a family. When my wife to be, Chanda, needed me to step up and marry her, I remembered that campout and realized you both were on my side as usual, and I jumped in. Now a pretty fantastic daughter and son are in my life. Your vast knowledge of so many subjects made for great sharing, and of anyone in my life, you and I had the most intense arguments and resolutions about things in life, I loved our banter and deep safe disagreements. I miss that, and miss the feeling I was loved for who I am around you. You left a bit early, and for that I forgive you sort of. You are missed. Our last Men's group meeting had a chair with a bright candle on it to be there for you, hope you enjoyed our paying our respects.
Love, and I suspect you are still chucking over our struggles to get it right!!!!
Mac*

MacWain Phillips - May 08, 2013 at 09:37 PM



“ *This picture of Otis captures what I will remember about him forever, that infectious smile of his. My fonest memory is the time Otis and I went to Angwin and The Pacific Union College with our telescopes one evening and I saw the Crab Nebula for the first time. When I announced I had finally found it, Otis came running over to see. He looked through my scope, laughed and smiled and started to dance around like a little child singing "we found da crab". I don't know who was more excited, him or me. We had a great time that evening. Everytime I look to the heavens now I will watch for that twinkle and know that is Otis looking back at me and with that smile saying " Ha, I got the best seat in the house now". RIP my friend*

Darrell Lahman - April 07, 2013 at 04:01 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Darrell Lahman - April 07, 2013 at 03:47 PM



“ *Darrell Lahman lit a candle in memory of Otis E. Finley III*



Darrell Lahman - April 07, 2013 at 03:42 PM



“ *Otis was a wonderful neighbor, hosting the residents of Anita Circle for a BBQ and sharing with us and our children his observatory. We have continued his legacy by taking our kids to the Chabot Observatory in Oakland, and they always remember Otis being the first one to show them a telescope. He has left many gifts to this universe, and he will be missed. - Megan Lawrence*

Megan Lawrence - April 07, 2013 at 10:53 AM