

CARY VINCENT GRIFFIN  
1953-2008



It all started with a hatbox and a pair of sticks and a drummer was born at age 10. Cary Griffin, a phenomenal drummer of many styles of music, died of sudden cardiac arrest June 30, 2008. He was 55. Cary's drumming chops spanned Brazilian, Afro-Cuban, jazz, rock and big band music. At the time of his death he had found his current musical home with his band, Loose Gravel, playing New Orleans Funk.

The youngest of three brothers, Cary was born to a navy family in Port Hueneme, CA June 4, 1953. His father was a career Navy Supply Corps officer. As with most military families, he moved every three years, living in Alexandria, VA, Rockingham, NC, Arlington, VA, London, England and Athens, GA. He graduated high school from Darlington School, Rome, GA and completed two years at UC Davis. He then took a three-year break to pursue his drumming with Big Wally, Binky Brown, Evenin' Breeze and Little Roger and the Goosebumps, followed by a stint in the UC Berkeley Jazz Big Band. He completed his B.A. degree in Environmental Studies from UC Berkeley in 1978. Upon graduation, he lived in Berkeley for eighteen years and then moved to Sebastopol, CA.

After graduation, he wrote environmental impact reports for A.B.A.G., Thomas Reid Associates and Cooper and Clark Engineers, before trying his hand at technical writing. During this time he was introduced to computers and

programming which he put to good use in the energy and banking worlds. He was a pioneer in the early days of the Internet, building and hosting bank websites from a computer in his barn for several years until the Internet took off. He became an independent contractor which led to project leadership, systems analysis, and planning work for several California banks and corporations. He was currently employed as an E-Business Consultant with Wells Fargo Bank. He was a team player and well respected in his field. But, he still made time to pursue his love of music, performing in public and casual venues with many Bay Area and Sonoma County musicians.

Cary was active in the Sebastopol community. Soon after he moved to this little town he worked on the development of Seb-Web for the city of Sebastopol. He was a dedicated parent, supporting and volunteering at his daughter's schools, especially Willow Spring School. He also served 4 years on the Twin Hills Union School District School Board. He participated for several years in the Carnival Spirit and Oye Axe drum and dance groups and played in many Apple Blossom Parades. He drummed with the Ernie Shelton Dek-tette, as well as with his own band, Loose Gravel. He greeted everyone with a smile and had a wry sense of humor, leaving his family and friends laughing.

From 1996-2008, Cary donated plasma and platelets 108 times at the Blood Bank of the Redwoods. He was as generous after death as he was in his life by being a tissue donor so that hundreds of people may live fuller, richer lives.

Cary leaves his wife of nearly 27 years, Becky Christiansen and his daughter, Johanna Griffin, his mother Page Griffin, and brothers Gerry and Fred Griffin. His father, Gerald Griffin, predeceased him in 2004. He was a favorite uncle to Alice, Page, and Gerald Griffin and to Will Christiansen and Andrew Walzer; brother-in-law to Kay Christiansen, Rick Walzer, Jeff Christiansen, Lou Ellyn Griffin and Laura Griffin and son-in-law to Lolly Christiansen.

A celebration of his life is being planned for his friends. The date is October 25, 2008, 11 am at the Youth Annex, 425 Morris Street, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Donations may be made in his name to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association or to the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center Building Fund.