



Martin Jon Sorom

December 7, 1965 - August 31, 2015

Martin Jon Sorom, beloved son, brother, husband and father died unexpectedly on Monday, August 31, 2015.

Martin was born December 7, 1965 at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Terry and Suzanne Sorom. Martin was named after his maternal great-grandfather Martin John Abraham, and his grandfather Martin John Sorom.

The family moved to Wenatchee in March of 1973, where Martin graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1984. Martin was a skillful athlete and enjoyed alpine skiing and tennis, and played trumpet in the Golden Apple Band. After high school he was an AFS exchange student to Spain. Following the year abroad, he attended Pacific Lutheran University graduating with a major in Spanish and a minor in Psychology. He lived and worked in Mexico and Ecuador during his college summers to further enhance his Spanish skills.

Martin worked in Phoenix, Arizona and taught English in Japan before becoming a probation officer in Grant County. It was here that his skills with Spanish were appreciated as he worked with primarily Hispanic young men. He later returned to Wenatchee and began working at Lincoln Elementary School as a paraprofessional. This experience made him realize that he loved

working with children so he pursued a teaching degree from Central Washington University. He taught elementary classes during his 10 years at Lincoln. His gift as a teacher was to make children "life long readers."

In 2003 he married Jenny Lann and added Jenny's daughter Alexis to his life. They welcomed a daughter Jenna Sue in 2004, and in 2008 a son Preston Terry. Needing a change in his career, Martin left the public school system and became certified as a Montessori teacher. In the fall of 2011 he opened his own Spanish/English bilingual Montessori School "New Friend School" for children ages 3 to 5. Many Wenatchee children benefited from his sensitive and skillful guidance as they learned about themselves and the world around them. Martin's greatest joy was with his family. He was a very devoted husband and father, and the family loved to hike, bike, camp and read together.

Martin will be deeply missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his wife Jenny and children Alexis, Jenna and Preston. His parents Dr. Terry and Suzanne Sorom, his brothers and their wives Jeb and Galen Sorom, Abraham and Denise Sorom, Theodore and Heather Sorom, nephews Lars, Boden, Theron and Haakon, and nieces Anna and Hannah.

Celebration of Life Services will be held at King's Orchard Church of Christ on Saturday, September 5, 2015 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to charities of their choice in Martin's name that benefit Children's Education. Please express your thoughts and memories on the online guest book at jonesjonesbetts.com. Arrangements are by Jones & Jones-Betts Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ Jones & Jones - Betts Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Martin Jon Sorom



Jones & Jones~Betts Funeral Home - September 04, 2015 at 02:09 PM



such a touching video...he was an imp and one of the most determined and dedicated educator wannabe when he was my student. I am so so glad he touched so many lives. Leilani Bangs

Leilani Loni Schroder-Bangs - September 04, 2015 at 04:13 PM



Well done video, nice to see him.

Gigi Baker - September 04, 2015 at 09:52 PM



The service today was beautiful & touching! I felt from the wonderful tributes to him that I knew Martin well despite never really having the privilege to get to know him! Prayers & love for Jenny, their sweet children & all of the family 🙏??💕

Marilyn Brincat - September 06, 2015 at 01:20 AM

Mari
Groff

“ We met Martin the summer before he opened New Friends School. He was busy putting the classroom, or "prepared environment" together. At that moment the room didn't look like much but Martin had a vision and his energy and passion for the Montessori approach was compelling.

Sure enough, he turned a simple room into an inviting, creative workplace for children. Since that time, three of our children have gone through New Friends School. Every year Martin made improvements, adding new works - often in response to individual students interests and needs, adding more music, and new creatures for the children to observe and enjoy.

Martin was an excellent Montessori "Guide." He related comfortably to children and was keenly observant. He made parent teacher conferences fun - and challenging! He came with insights and questions for us. I also watched him come up with out of the box approaches to help motivate kids. He welcomed conversation at pick up time, or through email, and partnered with us through several education decisions.

Martin loved to read! I remember many a good conversation about Montessori and Sir Ken Robinson and Sunday school and emotional intelligence and common core....I'll miss his book and Ted talk recommendations. He was an engaging conversationalist, and a good listener.

Martin's love for his kids was evident. He looked so happy watching Jenna climb trees and Preston catch bugs in the field in the afternoon, and he loved talking about what books his children were enjoying.

I suspect part of the reason Martin was passionate about Montessori was because he had great faith in children's internal drive and curiosity and generosity of spirit. He talked proudly of the long stretches of time New Friends students would peacefully,

quietly work in the classroom, often independently. He frequently took pictures of their creations.

We'll always remember Martin in the field with the students at the end of the day, and singing with the abuelas y abuelos at Blossom Valley, and, perhaps most importantly, reading to the class - sharing something he loved with children he loved.

Mari and Alan Groff and family

Mari Groff - September 14, 2015 at 12:05 AM

DF

“ *Diede Family lit a candle in memory of Martin Jon Sorom*



Diede family - September 11, 2015 at 11:15 PM

AN

“ *I was so saddened to hear of Martin's passing. We were in the same graduating class in high school and in band together. I remember him as someone that everyone liked and enjoyed being around, very kind and a good sense of humor, always laughing. I'm sure he will be greatly missed. Thinking of his family and friends and praying that they will be comforted at this time.*

Ann Diede Nelson - September 11, 2015 at 05:54 PM

KB

“*Mr. Sorom" taught me in his Spanish as a Second Language class at Lincoln Elementary, in 1995. I clearly remember sitting in his class as a second-grader and deciding that I was going to learn Spanish, because he made it seem so important. He was an inspiring teacher. I am so sorry that he was suffering, and for your loss.*

Kristen Ballinger - September 10, 2015 at 03:04 PM

SK

“*We were heartbroken to hear of Martin's passing. His work in children's education was truly inspirational. The family you created is truly beautiful. We pray that your memories & God's love will help sustain you in the days ahead. Love & tears, Joe & Shari Kastenholz*

Shari Kastenholz - September 07, 2015 at 12:26 PM

 Rick
Nobleman

“*Martin and I were in Granada, Spain together on AFS in 1984-85. I'm returning to Granada this October to visit my host family. I was scanning photos from my scrapbook to share with my family, when I came across these of Martin and decided to look him up. We haven't been in contact since we were in Granada together. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. I have great memories of going to Spanish high school and walking the streets of Granada with Martin.*



Rick Nobleman - September 05, 2015 at 11:40 PM


Keyser

“ *Even before he was officially a teacher, Martin was an inspiring mentor and guide to our son in early elementary years at Lincoln. He noticed our son liked "Hardy Boys" books, and lent him many from his own childhood collection. How cool for a six year-old to have someone take a personal interest like that.*

Our deepest sympathy for your loss.

A Keyser - September 05, 2015 at 06:30 PM

BR

“ *I am really sorry to hear about your family's loss. I really enjoyed skiing days at the ridge.*

brett rutherford - September 05, 2015 at 10:37 AM

NM

“ *I worked with Martin at Lincoln Elementary and had many opportunities to observe Martin working in his classroom. He was a kind, funny and caring teacher. We had many wonderful intellectual conversations about teaching. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.*

Nancy McKee

Nancy McKee - September 05, 2015 at 09:35 AM



“ *Martin was a great man and our youngest son's first teacher and coach. He was always dedicated to helping his students with a gentle nature and kind encouraging words. He helped us understand how talent comes in different packages and often provided us with guidance to explore and unlock our son's potential. He always saw the best in him. For that, we are forever grateful and will miss him dearly. Descanse en paz Senior Martin.*

The Ortiz family.

Sam Ortiz - September 05, 2015 at 12:06 AM



“ *Dear Sorom Family.
When we were neighbors of Martin and Jenny we would frequently hear Martin and his young family playing in their back yard and those beautiful sounds of laughter would waft over the fence into our yard. That is how we shall remember Martin.... in happier times. Farewell and God speed Martin. May you find eternal peace and may God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

"I am the resurrection and the life. If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever" 11: John

Cope & Dorothy Copeland

Cope & Dorothy Copeland - September 04, 2015 at 11:09 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Senor Martin - New Friend School*



Mari Groff - September 04, 2015 at 09:05 PM

EK

“ *Dear Family Sorom - All of You: We want to add our sorrow to that of those who have already written. As friends of Martin's parents we knew him best as a youngster. In reading his bio we can see the impact his life has had on so many kids. Tears flood my eyes when I think of his life cut short. Through our grief we need to accept what is, somehow, someday. We can only wrap our love around you who remain and wish you peace. Love to you from Gene and Gloria Kupferman*

Eugene Kupferman - September 04, 2015 at 03:02 PM

BG

“ *To all of the Sorom family:*

I'm really sorry to hear the news of Martin's passing. I enjoyed playing soccer with Marty on our Wenatchee Valley Junior Soccer team back in the day and was always impressed with Marty's skill (as well as the fact that he was a great teammate).

Keeping you and Martin in our prayers,

Brett Gaspers & family

Brett Gaspers - September 04, 2015 at 02:11 PM

MB

“ *This obituary and all the pictures are an incredible tribute. My heart is breaking for the entire Sorom family and all of Martin's family and friends who are suffering from this painful loss. I am sending many hugs and prayers. Love, Marie*

Marie Bouvet - September 04, 2015 at 09:17 AM



“ *Dear Sorom family,*

How devastating to hear of Martin's passing. I can't imagine the pain and pray that time will ease the relentless pounding of this grief. Lean on the love around you and know that so many are thinking of you all.

Love, Tricia Beam (Cepeda)

Trish Cepeda - September 04, 2015 at 08:50 AM

CM

“ *We are shocked to learn Senior Martin passed away! He was an amazing teacher and new paradigm educator. We loved seeing our son thrive while attending New Friend Montessori School! Jenny, if/when Preston would like a play date we will be there for you two with open loving arms! Our heart breaks for your sweet family and we are sending you love and light and peace during this difficult time!! He will be forever missed but never forgotten! One of a kind....Senior Martin....rest in peace!!*



Chauntel McFadden - September 04, 2015 at 12:53 AM

KK

“ Martin you will be greatly missed. I pray that you're at peace and please know that your family and friends will remember you always. And to the Sorom family, you're in my thoughts and prayers. I wish you peace as well.

korey korfiatis - September 03, 2015 at 11:40 PM

BO

“ I worked with Martin at Lincoln Elementary. He was a good man, and was respected and valued by his peers. His way with children was magical. Sending prayers for peace and healing to his family. His love for you came through when he spoke of you at work.

Bobbi - September 03, 2015 at 11:25 PM

KO

“ Martin you will be missed. Finnley so enjoyed having you for a soccer coach. You always had such a wonderful spirit for children. You coached Jenna's team for many years and Finnley had been lucky to be on the team for several years. I always thank you for coaching and you always said Jenna wouldn't have it any other way. You always made sure to celebrate each girl on the team. I am so sorry Jenny, Alexis, Jenna and Preston for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with the Sorom family. The Ottley Family

Kelli Ottley - September 03, 2015 at 10:45 PM



“ *Martin Sorom was a incredible friend. Some of my favorite memories in life include Martin. He was a beautiful and fearless skier who charged every run. Tennis seemed to come easy to him. I was always jealous of his ability to dissect opponents through a lethal combination of athleticism, creativity and mental strength. Martin was an amazing conversationalist and had a top 10 laugh that I can still hear vividly. Life was always better when Martin was around.*

There are so many stories that I will cherish. Can't wait to see you again in Heaven! I love you brother! I miss you brother!

Your friend....

Bart Tilly

Bart Tilly - September 03, 2015 at 10:07 PM

KD

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Your family is in my thoughts.*

Kristen Doerr - September 03, 2015 at 10:02 PM

BP

“ *Martin was one of my first friends I made when my Mom and I ended up in Wenatchee back in the early 70s. Martin Sorom and his family were really a cool bunch of people. Great Family! May god watch over you and your family.*

Brian De La Pointe

Brian De La Pointe - September 03, 2015 at 09:18 PM

MZ

“ Four years ago our family relocated to Wenatchee. We were in search of a montessori school. My niece Sue Wyles shared that a friend of hers from high school was opening a new bi-lingual montessori school called "New Friend" who she highly respected his name was Martin Sorom! Our granddaughter was able to secure a spot that first year and had the wonderful opportunity to attend for two years! Today she thrives on learning excited about science, math, writing. She adored Martin and Preston! Anytime we would see him on the ski slope, at the hospital, gymnastics he always took the time to speak with Brooklynn! Thank you Martin for your love and time caring about the future of our children. We are so sad about the news of your passing! Sending prayers of support to each of you! Rudy, Mary, Brooklynn Zavala

Mary Zavala - September 03, 2015 at 08:39 PM



“ When we moved back to Wenatchee from Southern California, we realized that Martin and his wife, Jennie, were now our neighbors living four houses down from us. Martin and I graduated together from WHS but never hung out then. However, as adults and fellow teachers we became fast friends. I loved having long conversations with Martin. He was a deep thinker and highly intellectual and always wanted to know my viewpoint on a variety of topics--he was genuinely interested in people. Martin loved children and was a celebrated teacher. Many teachers observed him as a model for effective teaching practices. He was very interested in exposing kids to great children's literature and develop in them a love for reading. I know that Martin loved his family. He was a hopeless romantic and used to write love poems to Jennie--sometimes he'd read them to me! His kids became the center of his life. Depression is a terrible thing and Martin was plagued by it over the last several years. I truly believe that he is now with God and free of the specter of mental illness. To Martin's family: Psalm 34:18 – "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." May God grant you His grace as you grieve a tremendous loss.

Dave Williams

Dave Williams - September 03, 2015 at 08:15 PM



That was nice David.

Gigi Baker - September 04, 2015 at 09:58 PM



“ Dear Sorom Family So sorry for the lost of Martin I remember him well we used to go to Pioneer Jr.High and his dad was my eye dr when i was little he was a blessing in my life prayers and thoughts brenda (woods) weston

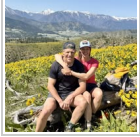
Brenda Rose - September 03, 2015 at 07:30 PM



Kristina
Mason

“ I had the honor of team teaching g with Martin at Lincoln. It was an honor and a blessing to work along side a man that was truly looking out for the best interest of the children. He was always pushing the kids to find their voice and to learn in their own way. His influence will be missed.

Kristina Mason - September 03, 2015 at 06:55 PM



“*Martin was a close, dear friend of our family, someone who we admired and appreciated as much or more than any other human being we have ever met. You see, Martin, Jenny, Alexis, Jenna, and Preston live right across the street from us. They are more than neighbors; they are family. Martin was a second father to our daughter, Gabriella. Jenna and Preston are Gabriella's best friends forever (BFF's). They spend every possible minute playing together - creating sidewalk chalk art, laughing in the hot tub, painting their nails (yes, sometimes Preston too, against his will) watching movies, imagining themselves as superheroes, and all the other things kids love to do. Most of the time, Martin would oversee the kids in their house. He loves kids. He loves to see kids at play, enjoying themselves, learning, laughing, loving. For the time our daughter spent with Martin, we are eternally grateful. Gabriella was one of his first students at New Friend School. He taught her so much, gifted her with a love of learning and exploring, and developed in her a love for Spanish. I love Martin for this. Martin also loved our boys. He would ask them questions, speak to them at their level, engage them in thinking about life and how best to live. He was like a second father to them as well. Martin was a good friend to me (Kelly). He and I would talk sometimes for what seemed like hours, discussing faith, politics, and world problems. He was a major inspiration for us when we were thinking about moving to Colombia for 2 years. We moved back in late June and the past two months have been enjoyable in great part because of Martin and his family. We will miss Martin for as long as we live on this earth but thankfully, we will see him again face to face in Heaven. That is when Jesus will wipe away our tears so that we can begin to live like neighbors again in the perfect place He has created for us. I (Kelly) can't wait for that day when I get to see Martin again and tell him, "I have missed you friend, and I love you."*

Kelly Boyle - September 03, 2015 at 04:44 PM

RL

“ Dear Sorom family,
I know Martin from several years when we both taught at Lincoln Elementary. I remember him as a very kind individual who was always ready to share new ideas which would benefit children. I am so very sorry for your loss... Martin will be missed by many!
Very sincerely,
Rosalie Langston

Rosalie Langston - September 03, 2015 at 04:35 PM

MK

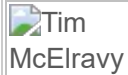
“ Please God, take Martin in to your arms and hold him and hold him for as long as he needs. I can handle my own pain, but I want to ease his. To the Sorom family, I wish you the same peace. One day we'll all be together again, and at that time, we can hold, love, and understand. And then, most likely, Martin will challenge us all to a game of tennis. Don't worry, Martin, you are absolutely a winner in my book.

Maggie Koch - September 03, 2015 at 01:09 PM

SF

What a beautiful tribute to an amazing husband, father, son and friend to many. I am so sorry and you are all in my constant prayers. I also pray for peace. We know it will take time but just know we are all holding you near to our hearts. Many blessings and jenny you know if you need anything just ask!!
Love Siobhan fryhover

siobhan fryhover - September 04, 2015 at 11:43 PM

 Tim
McElravy

“ Dear Sorom Family,

I am sad to hear of Martin's passing. I know Martin and Jenny through their own children and nephews who come here to camp each summer at Lake Wenatchee. To Alexis, Jenna, Preston, Lars, Boden, Haakon and Theron we love you and are praying for God's comfort to embrace you during this difficult time. To Jenny, and the rest of the Sorom family we offer our deepest condolences to you all. We will be thinking of you in the days ahead. May God bless you and keep you.

Tim and the Staff at Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp

Tim McElravy - September 03, 2015 at 12:28 PM

 KH

“ Dear Sorom family,

We are so very sorry for your loss. Senor Martin was a wonderful teacher and friend to my boys at New Friend School. We were so blessed by the opportunity to attend there. He was always so calm and patient with the students, teaching them to care for each other. He will be truly missed.

With love and prayers,

Brian, Krista, Cory, and Noah Herling

Krista Herling - September 03, 2015 at 10:43 AM

ET

“ We knew Martin as he grew up at Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee High, and P L U. He was a great competitor on the tennis court. He became a very good friend of our son Bart. We all are very sorry to lose this neat young man..

Sincerely,

Earl Tilly

Earl Tilly - September 03, 2015 at 10:39 AM

MP

“ Martin was Dylan's soccer coach. Dylan can be a challenge of a child to work with and Martin was absolutely amazing, patient, kind, and supportive of and with Dylan. We send our prayers and condolences to your family. He was a very kind man and will be greatly missed.

melissa, geno, and dylan payne - September 02, 2015 at 10:34 PM

MP

“ Melissa, Geno, And Dylan Payne lit a candle in memory of Martin Jon Sorom



melissa, geno, and dylan payne - September 02, 2015 at 10:29 PM

KA

Dear Sorom Family,
We are so very sorry for your loss, our prayers are with you all.
Katrina and Rocky Skalisky

Katrina - September 03, 2015 at 03:09 PM

LP

*Dear Sorom Family,
I worked with Martin at Lincoln Elementary. He was also my grand daughter's pre-school teacher at New Friend's School. Martin was bright and creative. He always liked to talk about children's literature and how inspiring it was to share the literature with students. He enjoyed working with children and became excited about their love of learning which he fostered daily. The educational field has lost an incredible professional. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

Lynn Pearl - September 03, 2015 at 07:13 PM

CR

Dear Soroms, I'm sad to learn about Martin. I graduated High School with him and I remember that smile and his laugh. Praying that you'll all receive what you need in this season.

Chris Rosenau - September 03, 2015 at 08:07 PM

EP

*Dear Sorom Family,
I am absolutely heart broken to hear of your loss. I used to ride the bus to school with Martin (and Jeb, Ted, and Abe).
Martin would smile and joke, in a quiet way. I never heard him say anything unkind to anyone - ever. Again, I am so very sorry for your loss, lift you up in prayer, and hold you close to my heart.
All my love, Elaine (Miller) Parks*

Elaine Parks - September 04, 2015 at 12:35 AM



Dear Sorom Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. I am so sad to hear about his passing.

I taught with Martin at Lincoln Elementary. We job-shared for a year at 3rd grade. Martin had charisma unlike anyone I've ever met. Martin, as an educator, was one of the most passionate teachers I have known during my whole career. He believed so much in the whole child, the necessity to teach children to think critically and not worry about standards and assessments. He believed that our job as educators were to instill a love of reading. While we say this about many educators, he truly was the most passionate teacher I have ever met when it came to this. Just this summer, we had a conversation about the world of Common Core/high stakes testing vs. honoring students for their ability to explore, learn and think and learning to read. His passion for his Montessori school was evident as well as admirable.

As a person, Martin was such a caring individual. I know his family was his world. Martin knew how important it was to enjoy every second of his children growing up. He was such a brilliant man. Talented. Warm. Giving. Caring. The world has lost an amazing dad, educator, and friend.

God Bless and prayers to your family.

Angie Willms

Angie Murphy Willms - September 04, 2015 at 12:35 AM

EC

Dear Sorom Family,

So sad to hear the news. Thoughts and Prayers to you all.

I grew up in Wenatchee playing tennis and trumpet with Martin, but the treasured memories created as "invincible" teenagers while teaching skiing at Mission Ridge always creates a smile. We once had to sing the song Karma Chameleon by Culture Club to the entire Mission Ridge Staff to get our Seasons Passes reinstated after ducking the ropes under the cover of darkness and hiking up to the downhill start to have a race under the light of the moon, just to share the thrill and joy of the experience.

Martin was adventurous, kind, and touched many lives in a positive way. He is missed.

Ernie Chan-Nui

Ernie Chan-Nui - September 05, 2015 at 07:27 PM

RG

Martin and I became friends as we went through the teaching program together at CWU. The Lord gave us both precious wives later in life. I know he cherished his wife and family.

He was always looking out for me in the teaching program. I took note on several occasions that he was a man who was interested in looking out for others. My heart aches at the thought of his untimely passing.

I will always remember the fun times we had playing tennis, skiing, hiking and mountain biking. He loaned me his extra mountain bike on one trip. Halfway down I developed large blisters on my hands. Martin took off his own gloves and loaned them to me for the rest of the journey.

I look forward to the future when we will make a joyful noise before our Heavenly Father in Jesus name.

Love you bro, and I will miss you until then.

Rob Garmon

Robert Garmon - October 25, 2015 at 07:41 PM