

Philip Abinante Obituary

Philip James Abinante

Philip James Abinante was born in Monterey, CA, on February 20, 1945. He attended Ryan, Mount Angel and St. Patrick Seminaries. He began his career working for his father and family in the Abinante Music Store in Monterey, continuing in pastoral ministry, music leadership, education and computer support in Monterey, Seattle, Oregon and the San Francisco Bay Area. He had a passion for music in many forms. He played the organ and piano in both concerts and church services, and sang with the Carmel Bach Festival, the Eugene Opera Chorus and the Oakland Symphony chorus. His creative impulse also played out in house projects, writing, photography and his fascination with sound and video technologies and computers. Family and friends remember his respect for all people and belief that everyone could learn and succeed, demonstrated in his personal relationships, teaching, and work. He was an excellent cook and an avid reader, and regularly gathered people for food, wine and conversation. He loved the outdoors and cherished time hiking and camping with family and friends. He greatly valued family and community, sharing his love with a diverse extended family with a constant reminder of those less fortunate. He inspired us with his commitment to living with integrity and working for justice in every aspect of life. Phil died at home on June 27, 2008 after a year-long battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife, Mary da Silva Abinante; children, Jonathan, Natalie, and Gabriel; his sister Natalie Whitney; and numerous beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and in-laws. Funeral Mass will be celebrated Tuesday, July 1, 3:00 pm at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 39th and Lawton Streets, San Francisco. Memorial donations may be made to the Oakland East Bay Symphony Education Fund, 400 - 29th St., Suite 501, Oakland, CA 94609, or to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, 50 North B St., San Mateo, CA 94401.



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Memories and Condolences for Philip Abinante

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Mary and Family,

I was very sorry to hear the passing of Phil. You probably do not remember me, but I was in the Holy Cross Folk Group (1973) as a young shy guitarist. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this difficult time. I hope you find comfort knowing Phil is at peace now.

Judy Brown

July 4, 2008

Dear Mary and Family, It has been a very long time since we connected. Phil's choice for a committed partnership began much sooner than my choice in 1994 after 26 years of active ministry in the Monterey Diocese. My wife Mary and I live in Reno where I work as a Family Therapist for Social Services and Mary flies around the country for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges as a Permanency Moderator. There was the Abinante's Music Store in Monterey and the Burdick's Music Store in Santa Cruz. Your shared ministry at my home parish Holy Cross. I will never forget Tod Brown's Ordination in Boise when at communion time Tod ran up the Arena steps to give you and Phil communion. Phil has left his family and friends and others very special gifts stemming from his ministry of music and his care for people. But my take is that the most important gift he has left us is YOU! We send our healing thoughts and prayers your way. May loving memories sooth your loss.

Jim and Mary Magdalene Burdick

James (Jim) Burdick

July 2, 2008

Dear Mary and Family,

While I've never met you, and knew Phil from our days at Ryan (I was from Monterey too) and we were very good friends. He loved music with a passion; when he'd play a recessional on the pipe organ in chapel, we'd exit fast because he'd make it sound like the walls would come tumbling down. I'm sure he approached his family and his career with the same passion. My sympathy on your loss.

James Thiltgen

July 1, 2008