



# Lee Edward Collet

JUL 23, 1941 - DEC 31, 2018



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# Lee Edward Collet

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**L**ee Edward Collet, noted sculptor and art educator, died Monday, December 31, 2018 in Muskegon, surrounded by his loving family.

Lee was born on July 23, 1941 in Bay City, Michigan to Amos Frederick and Edith Irene (Blasdel) Collet. In 1959, Lee graduated from Midland High School in Midland, Michigan where he played violin in the orchestra. In 1963, Lee obtained a BA in Art Education at Central Michigan University where he was a member of the Sigma Theta Tau fraternity. From 1963-1966, he taught 5th and 6th grade art in the Flint Public Schools in Flint, Michigan.

On August 13, 1966, Lee married the former Darlene Jeanette Owen in the Mio Methodist Church in Mio, Michigan and they moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Lee obtained an MFA in Sculpture at the University of Michigan in 1968. That same year, he accepted a position in the Creative and Performing Arts Department at Muskegon Community College (MCC) in Muskegon, Michigan. Between 1968 and 2003, when he retired from MCC, Lee taught Sculpture, Design, Drawing and Art History, and served as Department Chair. During this time, he also taught Sculpture at Kendall School of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In addition to teaching, Lee was very prolific in his artistic endeavors, creating multiple small and large scale sculptures and wall reliefs. His work has been in numerous art exhibits and shows, including the Detroit Institute of Arts, Muskegon Museum of Art, and Frederick Meijer Gardens. A number of his sculptures and reliefs are on public display in Muskegon.

In his personal life, Lee enjoyed music, theater, history, especially Egyptian art history, and fine wine. He loved gardening, camping and staying in cabins with family, going on annual family trips to Traverse City, Michigan and Florida, and watching his sons participate in art, athletic, band, choir and theater events.

Lee leaves behind his beloved wife of 52 years, Darlene Jeanette Owen. They were blessed with two sons, Corbin Lee and his wife April, Cary Owen and his wife Kimberle and eight



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granddaughters, Tracy, Olivia, Jenna, Emme, Hadley, Chloe, Brynn and Savannah and one grandson, Brendan. Lee also leaves his brother, David Lee and his wife Christine and family.

A CELEBRATION OF LEE'S LIFE will be held from 3-5 PM Saturday, January 5, 2019 at The Lee Chapel, 6291 S. Harvey St., 231-798-1100. Wine, soft drinks, and appetizers from the Hearthstone will be served. Lee's cremated remains will be interred in a custom-made Egyptian Pyramid located in the Crockery Township Cemetery in Nunica, Michigan. Lee overcame the challenges of a 40 year fight with Multiple Sclerosis. He would not let anything limit his achievements. His family requests no flowers, instead, please make a donation to the Multiple Sclerosis Society or Muskegon County Community Foundation Collet Family Art Preservation Fund. You may sign his online guestbook at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com)

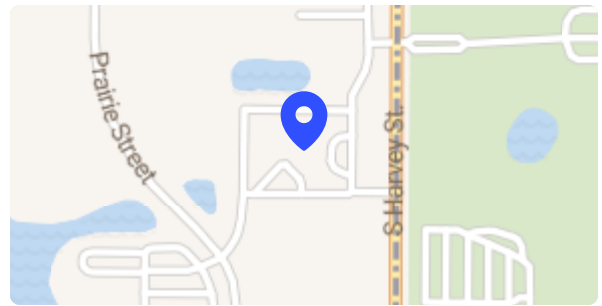


# Events

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## Celebration of Life Gathering

- Saturday**, January 5, 2019
- 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET
- The Lee Chapel - Family Center**  
6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores MI 49444



## Cemetery Details

- Nunica Cemetery**  
Nunica MI





# Tribute Wall

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**Minney Milton** posted:

Darlene and family, So sorry for your loss, you are in my prayers. Your Community Connects Choir Family also sends their prayers.

January 5 at 2:33 PM



**Janet Compton** lit a candle in honor of Lee.



January 4 at 3:38 PM



**Janet Compton** January 4 at 3:40 PM

so sorry for your loss I have many fond memories of sculpture class with Mr Collet at MCC



**Jack Travis** posted:

My condolences to the family. Remembering our fun times together at the Art Department at MCC and will I will treasure the fact that we shared a birthday. From a loving friend to the family, Jack Travis.

January 4 at 9:37 AM



**Esther Block** posted:

Darlene and family, Tom and I are so sorry to hear of Lee's passing. We won't be able to see you as we are now in Florida. We send many hugs and prayers. Love to all!! Tom and Esther Block

January 3 at 5:11 PM



**Phil Mcpherson** posted:

Darlene and Family, We are so sorry for your loss, Lee was a fighter and one hell of a Euchre player! He will be missed tremendously. Phil McPherson

January 3 at 9:18 AM



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JW

**Jerry Wiersma** posted:

So sorry to hear about your loss Darlene. I had no idea of Lee's amazing accomplishments until I read the obit. Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.

January 3 at 8:30 AM

RD

**Rd** posted:

I'm sending my sincere condolences to the Collet family and friends. This is one of life's greatest challenges that we have to face. Jesus said, did, and promised something that gives us comfort and hope. In the Bible at John 11:11-14, Jesus likened death to sleep. This comfort us in two ways: 1) we are assured by those words that our loved ones are not suffering or in pain. 2) If a person is just sleeping, he will wake up! Notice what Jesus does next at John 11:43-44, this is amazing! If you would like to know more details about this, please download a free copy of the brochure Good News from God @ Jw.org and read lesson 6 along with the Bible.

January 3 at 8:12 AM

KP

**Karen Panozzo** posted:

Darlene, I'm so sorry to hear of your husbands death. Prayers are with you and your family

January 3 at 5:51 AM

FM

**Frank P Marczak** posted:

Darlene and family; our sincere condolences to you. I have fond recollections of Lee and his quizzical smile as we debated educational issues serious and humorous. His sculptures, especially the larger ones live on in my mind. May he rest in peace after serving students and the community in the thoughtful and sincere way he did. May peace be with your family. Frank and Marlene Marczak

January 3 at 5:29 AM

JB

**Joan Bergbower** posted:

My sincere condolences to you--Darlene, Cary and Corbin!!! Darlene, I would like to be there and hug you and tell you how wonderful you have been in supporting and caring for Lee all these years. Just know you are loved!!!! Joan Bergbower

January 3 at 5:03 AM



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**Chris Patterson** posted:

Darlene, I am so sorry for your loss. He has left a legacy of work and will never be forgotten. Prayers for you all.

January 2 at 5:25 PM



**Joe & Cheryl Masar** posted:

You are close to our hearts, Darlene. We hope you find peace and rest.

January 2 at 2:40 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Lee by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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