

David Rajnar Vajra-Loeb

September 16, 1947 - May 16, 2023

David Rajnar Vajra-Loeb, longtime Amherst resident, was born in New York City on September 16, 1947 to Marvin and Bernice (Cherry) Loeb. His first years were spent in New York City until age 6 when his family moved to San Diego, CA. Some of his earliest and happiest memories of childhood were of time spent with loving grandparents in New York City and of pushing his baby brother Jef in a carriage along the Coney Island boardwalk.

Early in his life and throughout his 75 years, Rajnar showed a talent for music and writing, and was fascinated by how things work, how people work, and all the unanswered “whys” of the Universe. He would carry this curiosity and interest throughout his life and apply it to his songs, art, and writing.

After graduating from Mission Bay High School, Rajnar attended Berkeley College in the mid 1960s and began some of his musical relationships during that time, forming the band Ship of the Sun as guitarist and vocalist. He spoke often of the enjoyment he found in his peaceful and reflective early adult years in California in a community of musicians. His band eventually undertook a journey across the country to explore the music scene on the East Coast, leading Rajnar to Massachusetts where he established some of his most important lifelong friendships and collaborative relationships.

His interests and talents were nearly limitless over the course of his life owing to his curiosity and eagerness to try almost anything that sparked his interest, though music and writing always had top billing as his greatest passions and most expressive mediums. He was an enthusiastic musician, music teacher,

jeweler, artist, and science fiction writer. His short stories and novellas have appeared in numerous formats and his two novels, *Dr. Alien* and *Opening Wonders*, were recently published after years of extensive work.

Rajnar passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 16. His extraordinary nature and beautiful life continue to be cherished by his beloved wife of 30 years D.L. Ainsworth, his brother Jef Loeb (Deb Loeb) of Connecticut, and his four stepchildren Heather-Lee Marsh (Kevin Marsh) of Easthampton MA, Jenicca Gallagher (Sean Gallagher) of Belchertown MA, Jeremy Mainville (Heather Shields) of Holly Springs NC, and Lauren Mainville (Ralph Cutter) of Orange MA. A source of great delight were four grandchildren who called him "Baba"; Alexis Mainville-Shaefer, Joey Mabry, Lyla Mainville, and Rhys Mainville. He is also held dear in the hearts of countless extended family members, community friends and neighbors, music students, fellow artists, and science fiction readers and writers.

Rajnar appreciated finding positive and inspirational qualities in others, and one of his favorite places to meditate and reflect was the Leverett Peace Pagoda where he spent many happy hours with his wife. Rather than flowers or donations, Rajnar's family hopes that his loved ones and friends might instead be inspired to perform random acts of kindness whenever we find ourselves remembering his gentle spirit and well lived life.

DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with his arrangements.

For more information or to leave the family a personal condolence, please visit DrozdalFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall



“ I just heard now and am devastated. He was a singular being: light encased in flesh. I mourn that I will never speak and laugh with him again.

Chuck Gannon - April 12, 2024 at 06:42 PM

LW

“ I was so sorry to hear that David has died. As Rajnar Vajra, he was a friend on Facebook for many years and my partner and I spoke most days, for about a decade. He was always interesting, informative and kind. He was highly respected by the science fiction writing community and will be greatly missed. We lit a candle for him here in South West England last night. My very best wishes to his loved one. - Liz Williams

Liz Williams - June 03, 2023 at 02:33 AM

CB

“ Raj, May your memory be a blessing and a continuing inspiration to your family, friends and to all of your fellow colleagues in music, art and writing... 🥹🌈❤️

Chris M. Barkley - June 02, 2023 at 11:00 PM

EM

“ Raj and I shared a birthday, and around the time I got my 3rd story published (like, 15 years ago), we corresponded quite a bit. I got to be an advance reader on one of his projects. I always enjoyed chatting and bantering with him, and I wish we'd been able to share physical space at least once. Fare will in your further journeys, my friend. And my heart goes out to those he leaves behind. My condolences are inadequate.

E. Mark Mitchell - June 02, 2023 at 06:51 PM

WI

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Raj's passing. I went from dealing with him in a purely professional capacity to reading some of his work and enjoying conversations with him on FB. This news isn't at all welcome and I wish his family and close friends the most sincere condolences. He's a treasure and will be missed.

Willie - June 02, 2023 at 05:49 PM

AR

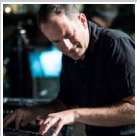
“ Dear DL, I am so sorry to hear about his passing. Only a couple of weeks ago I thanked him for sending me his book, and the honor I felt at having made the cover image for him. It was a wonderful story. In the few past years on FB I got to know what a wonderful person he was. (((HUGS))) to you and his family.

Ali Ries - June 02, 2023 at 01:34 PM

MK

“ Dear DL. What a shock to learn that Raj is no longer with us! He was a fixture on the street--quiet and kind. We will miss his music and sharing science fiction and, most of all, his presence. Love from Maura and Art

Maura E Keene - June 01, 2023 at 11:19 AM



“ I'm so sorry to learn of Raj's unexpected passing! My deepest condolences to his wife DL, family and friends. Raj and I enjoyed many times jamming together, playing his songs, having fun improvising and exploring vast musical landscapes. He will be sorely missed. May his memory be eternal.
Stephen Page

Stephen Page - May 31, 2023 at 08:21 AM