



## Michael John Helbling

September 24, 1967 - January 14, 2023

Michael John Helbling, age 55, beloved son, brother, uncle and friend passed away on January 14th, 2023 in Goshen, MA.

Michael (Mike) was a master carpenter and he used his skills, knowledge and honest hard work to build a successful home remodeling business. When he was not busy building beautiful homes for his clients, he was creating masterpieces in his wood shop that he would gift to those he loved, or he was using his time to help out family and friends with anything and everything. No asking necessary, Mike would just show up to offer his time to anyone who needed it - to garden, build a deck, a bathroom, tile a floor or put on a roof. Mike's generosity and selflessness were legendary to everyone who knew him. Mike had the heart of a lion and a gentle soul. He loved his family deeply. Mike grew up in Markham, Ontario, Canada with his parents and siblings. He had many friends, played sports and loved music. Mike loved the outdoors. He had a deep appreciation for the beauty of the Berkshire Mountains in Massachusetts where he lived for many years. A weekend backpacking trip on the Appalachian Trail was his favorite vacation. He also loved to grow vegetable gardens and work on his own home with his dearest friend Barbara Richardson.

Michael was born on September 24th, 1967 in Plainfield, NJ to John (Jack) and Jane Helbling. He was the loving older brother to Jill Helbling Meyer her children, Sarah Meyer and Michael Cocks and to Kathryn Helbling Donahue, her husband Raymond Donahue and their children Jack and Kate. The

families Richardson, Donahue, LeBarron and Ross were also part of his adoring extended family. He was loved by everyone who had the privilege of knowing him and especially by his family.

The family is asking in lieu of flowers donations be sent to the Salvation Army. If you asked Mike, he would say, "Be kind, be helpful and pay it forward...everyday."

Memorial services will be at a later date. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with his services. For more information or to leave the family a personal condolence, please visit [Drozdalfuneralhome.com](http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com)

# Tribute Wall

JO

“ I just learned of Mike's passing and my wife and I are deeply saddened by his loss. Mike was an extremely hard-working, professional, and friendly guy. He did a lot of great work on our house and made a very stressful time much easier for our family. My heart goes out to him and his loved ones.

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**Joe** - November 20, 2023 at 11:43 AM

SA

“ We met Mike when we hired him for a home renovation project. For over a year, we started many mornings with him in our kitchen talking about life ... our families, world news, how to chase the squirrels from the bird feeder. He became part of the family, offering to help out at the house even for things that didn't relate to the renovation. Even the cats liked Mike, which was very unusual. He just had a calming way about him that made everyone feel comfortable. We were so sorry to hear about his passing - having just seen him before Christmas. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends. We will cherish the memories of our time with him!

*Sarah and Tim Corrigan*

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**sarah** - January 28, 2023 at 11:07 AM

JM

*Thank you, Sarah and Tim, Mike was indeed a storyteller. Your words mean so much. It is exactly how Mike was. he wouldn't really get started on anything without a cup of coffee and a few stories. Once he got started on his project...he was focused! He always talked about his projects and most importantly he spoke so fondly of the people he did them for. He loved them. I am so grateful for your words. Thank you*

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**Jill Meyer** - March 22, 2023 at 10:31 PM

SB

“ To Mike’s Family and Friends, we send our deepest sympathies for your loss. Mike was of a one of a kind guy. How else do you describe someone who took such pride in all his work? He went so far as to take photos of every phase of each project he did, so that if anyone needed behind the wall details, Mike would have the answer. Mike literally worked on every room of our house. We missed his daily visits once the project was completed. But true to form, Mike would stop by with his ever present coffee cup if he were in the neighborhood, just to say hi, catch up, and ask if we needed help with anything. His talents were not limited to his carpentry skills. He was a fantastic story teller and so proud of each member of his family. We feel like we know each and every one of you despite never having met. He was always up for good conversation or book and movie recommendations. He had dinner with us and got a laugh out of our granddaughters. He was such a thoughtful, kind, and caring man. Mike, we hope that you are enjoying the view on a beautiful trail. We miss you.

Susan and Bob Boeri

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Susan Boeri - January 25, 2023 at 08:09 PM

JM

Thank you for sharing this. Mike spoke so fondly of the people he worked with. He felt like they were part of his own extended family. He spoke of you with joy in the same way he shared his joy with us. Thank you for this.

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Jill Meyer - March 22, 2023 at 10:23 PM

BW

“ My family and I are deeply saddened to learn of Mike’s passing. Mike has been a part of our lives for the past 5 years and someone we considered a dear friend. I can’t even recall all the work Mike has completed at our home. From a large master bath reno to installing a garbage disposal, Mike was always there to help. The best part about Mike wasn’t that the job was going to get done right, but it was the conversations. We talked about it all...from his family to world affairs to living in Goshen with Barb. The job itself may have only taken 30 minutes but the enjoyable conversations went on for an hour (or often hours). My kids knew him by name and were always excited to see his white truck pull into the driveway. In fact, just the other day, my 5 year old son and I were driving in town and, as he does when he sees any white truck, yelled “Hey dad, there goes Mike!”.....his memory will live on.  
Please accept our deepest condolences.  
Ben & Ashley

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Ben Weiss - January 24, 2023 at 05:31 PM

KT

“ My husband and I are heartbroken to learn of Mike’s passing - he was our Contractor for the last 2.5 years, helping us to restore our 100 year old home in Longmeadow, and was the beloved “Mr. Mike!” to our 2 young daughters (who always excitedly announced his arrival in his big white work truck).

We genuinely loved Mike and considered him a part of our family (though I’m sure he was ready to leave our crazy home as soon as he could every day!). We spent much time chatting with him between work projects - hearing about family memories in Canada, his sisters and parents, Barb, politics, current events, gardening and home projects. He would drop what he was doing to help us when we had the occasional home emergency and went out of his way to connect us to others when we needed help. Mike literally touched almost every room of our house and we are reminded of him daily - in the beautiful craftsmanship he left behind for us to enjoy.

We send our love to Mike’s family - thank you for sharing him with us. We miss him dearly.

- Matt and Katie Tanis

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**Katie Tanis** - January 21, 2023 at 04:06 AM

BR

“ Michael came into my life when he answered an ad in home advisor. I knew right away, the second I saw him, he was the man for the job. I wasn't wrong.

We became friends and he was very kind to my mother during that time on many occasions, so I knew he was a good person. He left when the job was complete and we all were happy.

Then my father passed and to keep my mom home with me, I decided to get a house mate in my 3 rooms and 1/2 bath on the third floor. Mike saw the ad and called me within minutes and said I will take it Barb. I said you may want to look at it first Mike, we laughed.

He moved into a multigenerational family home and he fit right in. My mother adopted him in her own way and called him Mikey. I had the honor of knowing and loving Mike for the last 8 years of his life.

He was my Best Friend and Life Partner.

In June he came to live with me in Goshen Ma, he loved the country and told me often.

We build our raised vegetable beds together and he enjoyed watching them turn into beautiful gardens that provided food to share and for preserving for winter.

He enjoyed watching the birds with me on our deck especially the Hummingbirds and the Blue birds.

Even when he was tired from working all week he would work on our house. I would tell him "we are in this for the long run Mike it's time to be nice to you" and he said its not work Barb its for us.

He enjoyed sitting by the fireplace, watching tv with me when he came home from work and eat his dinner.

I have wonderful memories if anyone wants to spend some time around the campfire here with me and my family.

I will always Love you Mike and will hold on to cherished memories, those beautiful blue eyes and that smile.

Until we meet again my Friend in the next room.



**Barbara Richardson** - January 20, 2023 at 02:16 PM

KT

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*We send our love to Mike's family - thank you for sharing him with us. We miss him dearly.*

*- Matt and Katie Tanis*

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**Katie Tanis** - January 21, 2023 at 03:55 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Michael John Helbling.



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January 20, 2023 at 11:06 AM

LL

“ Michael and I were very close while we attended architecture school in Toronto and lived together afterwards for a total of 10 years. He was my pal! I had the privilege of introducing him to my family in Northern Ontario and they fell in love with Mike. He was a great person. Very thoughtful, very loyal, very respectful. We've kept in touch since 1990 and made plans to meet up in Danbury one time. Wow we had a good time. Mike was the guy that you knew forever. He was the guy who you wanted to know. He was the guy you were lucky to have. I only hope that one day we can discuss architecture once again. Cheers Mike we will always miss you! Your buddy Leo LeBlanc

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**Leo LeBlanc** - January 20, 2023 at 08:33 AM