



DANIEL HOLLAND

JULY 28, 1959

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DECEMBER 8, 2023



Daniel Holland, a very dear and well known member of the Sedona community, passed over on December 8, 2023. It is challenging to write in a few words what he meant to so many different people during his lifetime. Daniel was a man of many faces.... activist, deeply spiritual, a helpful and loving friend, open-hearted in his approach to life, embracing everyone who was a part of it, whether it had been decades, a few days or a chance encounter on the street or in the grocery store. Everyone knew Daniel! He loved Sedona and all that it represented... he frequented the many local nightspots and venues to hear and support favorite musicians and creative artists, patronized the merchants at community farmer's markets and festivals and passionately supported the challenging issues that the Verde Valley faced in its changing environment over the years. Daniel loved to talk and enjoyed sharing conversation with locals, strangers and tourists alike... everyone became Daniel's "friend"! His involvement with the spiritual community in Sedona was also an essential part of his life as he explored his relationship to all that this encompassed. He was truly an icon in Sedona, and all who were blessed to be a part of his life recognized the unique individual that he was.

Born on July 28, 1959 in Brooklyn, N.Y., he lived there until he moved to Englewood Cliffs, N.J. at the age of 9. Growing up, he loved sports, playing basketball and was an avid skier. Hiking, camping (even in his own backyard!) and cycling became his passions as he grew older and continued on into his later years. Daniel graduated from Robert Lewis Stevenson High School in New York, and then decided to attend Franklin Pierce College in the mountains of New Hampshire, where he enjoyed the natural rustic beauty of the area. After a year in college, Daniel decided to move on and embarked on a challenging 3000 mile cross-country bicycle trip from New Jersey to San Francisco. There he connected with like-minded souls to form the Planetary Peace Alliance in 1979, with the goal of cycling from San Francisco to Moscow to bring the message of peace to the world and draw attention to the destructiveness of the nuclear arms race. Upon reaching New Jersey, members of the group then flew to Europe to continue their journey through England, France, and other western European countries. They succeeded in crossing the Iron Curtain and cycled across Poland and parts of East Germany and were featured in many local newspapers and television stations for their ambitious undertaking. After that adventure, Daniel continued on to Greece where he lived for several months. Then, upon his return to the States, Daniel once more cycled across the Country to California where he lived for a time. He eventually traveled to Colorado and finally settled in the place that he ultimately considered his home, Sedona! Nearly 40 years of his life was spent in the Verde Valley, precious relationships forged with the people and the land.

Daniel operated his own landscaping business and often said that being outside was his office. He loved the arts, music and theater, often volunteering at local events. In his early days in Sedona he was an actor with the Sedona Vortex Players, and later loved performing his comedy at area open mics. Daniel's most widely known venture was as the organizer and emcee of the Sedona Showcase, featuring local musicians and performers to raise funds for area charities. Daniel loved to travel and enjoyed vacationing in California, Hawaii, and the Southwest. In the summer, he accompanied his "bros" on their annual river trip to Utah, a favorite gathering of his dear friends for a week spent on the water. Daniel also lived on the island of Maui for a period of time, engaging with the locals and becoming privy to places that the tourists were not aware of. This was intrinsically Daniel: exploring out of the way places, whether it be in the Verde Valley or elsewhere. ... life was an adventure!

A celebration of Daniel's life was held at the Posse Grounds on December 17, 2023, where many gathered to share their memories, play music, have an iconic and heart-felt drum circle and enjoy food and drink. Indeed, many felt his presence there! The memories of this dear and precious soul continue, as all who knew him miss his recognizable voice and presence. Sedona is certainly not the same without him.

Daniel is survived by his father, Edward Holland, his mother Dorothy Leibowitz and Step-Father Ben Leibowitz, his brother Jay and his wife Pam and their 2 children, Michael and Maya and his sister Heidi, her wife Ivy Brackup and their daughter Pearl.