

Timothy Lee "Tim" Behl
April 2023
Age 69
Middletown, Connecticut

Timothy Lee Behl died in early April 2023 at age 69 in Middletown, Connecticut.

He was the beloved son of the late Carl and Dorothy Behl of Lakewood, Ohio. Tim is survived by his brothers Dennis (Julie Sedlak) of Minneapolis, Minnesota and David (Susan Bodo) of Germantown, New York. He was preceded in death by his brother Ronald C. Behl.

While in high school, Tim was in concert band, symphonic band, and marching band, as well as Lens & Shutter Club and the Environmental Action Club. He was in Hi-Art all three years of high school and president of the club his senior year.

After graduation from Lakewood High, Tim studied at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design where he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He later attended graduate school, earning a Master of Arts from Wesleyan University with a concentration in computer science/graphics.

Tim had a varied career, working first as a creative advisor/project management with Pfizer in Groton, Connecticut and later as an adjunct professor of digital photography and publication design for Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Connecticut. He ended his career as a creative consultant for Transitional Imagery in Middletown, Connecticut.

"Tim had a great imagination and inventiveness that few people understood or appreciated," says his brother, David Behl. "He was also a valuable problem solver. When he worked at Pfizer in Connecticut creating presentations for executives and scientists in print, video and computer formats, he had to interface with pharmacologists and edit their content so it was comprehensible to a wider audience."

He was an active member of First Church Middletown, UCC.

Tim suffered from bipolar disorder, a condition marked by extreme mood shifts and variations in energy and activity. In 2013, Tim's artwork was featured at the Zolla/Lieberman Gallery in Chicago in an exhibition by bipolar artists. In the exhibition catalog, Tim is quoted as saying, "The bipolar diagnosis is challenging to find a balance in everyday life. Creativity is a wonderful way to find that balance and practice; the discipliner of peace of mind."

Four of our classmates have shared their memories of Tim:

Mike Summers: "Tim and I were very best friends during our 'wonder bread' years from 7 to 12 years old. Tim was energetic, creative, fun, and had three older brothers! The Behl family was full of creative interest and talent: music, theater, fine arts, and graphic arts. They were as different as can be from my family of industrial salesmen- a path I would follow. Through my friendship with Tim, I was introduced to Broadway musicals via his actor brother Denny, who had lead roles in LHS Barnstormer plays; *Playboy* magazine via brother Ron; and movies and Dixieland music via Tim and brother David. I had so much fun and joy from my friendship with Tim. We shared the world of creative, imaginative play (not marred by video games). We built forts, played "Army," built go-carts, played in the dirt, played neighborhood games, made gun powder: all very innocent by today's standards (except maybe the gunpowder!) Our paths diverged in junior high school. I shifted towards sports, while Tim continued to pursue music and

art. We always remained good friends and were interested in each other's life journey. We continued to extend annual birthday wishes each year, including this past March. Tim will forever be a part of me. I treasure our friendship and boyhood experiences. He lives onward in my heart."

Scott MacGregor: "Behl was a formidable creative artist whose prestigious resume speaks for itself. I always saw him as a kind of whirling dervish--a mad elf at times with creative ideas flying out of him faster than he himself could process. He definitely lived in a world of his own. He was mischievous, but not devious. In high school, Tim and I were lucky to both be nominated for the same regional scholastic award in photography--The Kodak Medallion--just one of the art mediums that Tim worked in. I remember our photo teacher, Mr. Winkel, being so proud of us, though neither of us won the actual award. I remember Timmy shaking my hand when the nominations came out and congratulating me. That bit of unselfishness from a fellow art student was a first for me. It meant a lot, and I never forgot it. Safe travels, Timmy. I'm sorry I threw you out of that party back in 1980 when you knocked a beer on a guy while dancing and set a fire in the sink ... but we got passed that a long time ago, I hope."

Sharon Economy Young: "I met Tim in 8th grade at Horace Mann. He was always a little odd in a playful way but fun to be with. We attended a party together, and I remember a scavenger hunt. He will always have a special place in my heart. So sad another class member will no longer be among us. Tim was one of the best. My heart aches."

Rob Corns: "I was saddened to hear the news last month of the passing of Tim, or, as I would call him growing up, Timmy. We had known each other since our days at McKinley Elementary School, then Horace Mann Junior High, and finally Lakewood High. He was always a delight, a guy full of energy with just a hint...well maybe MORE than a hint... of mischievous! His parents, Carl and Dorothy, were very good friends with my parents for many years. All four were founding members of Lakewood's The Group, who would put on variety shows at both The Tryout Theater and The Civic Auditorium for decades. Occasionally, I would see Timmy backstage at one of the productions in the '70s and '80s but, alas, over the years, I lost touch with him. Timmy had moved to the East Coast to be CFO of Stray Cats and Canines. If you look at his Facebook page, it is littered (no pun intended, but Timmy would have liked that) with pictures of cats. I'll miss Timmy. His humor, the twinkle in his eye, his creativity. Gone much too young. Rest in peace, my friend."