Graveside with Famous Publisher Joel Weinstein—June & November, 2011

Photos this page by David Milholland and Judy Blankenship

Joel Weinstein was the Famous Publisher of Mississippi Mud fame when he lived in Portland from the mid 1960s through the early 1990s. Friends and family gathered in June 2011 at the invitation his widow Cheryl Hartup to witness the unveiling of Joel's gravestone. Cheryl pictured below with designer John Laursen and artist Sharon Bronzan.

Artist friends of Joel and Cheryl in Puerto Rico created the panels illustrating the shroud which was lifted to reveal the gravestone in Lone Fir Cemetery. His sister Lynne with Cheryl below represented the Weinstein family. Joel continues to dwell among us.

Joel's gravesite, where his ashes were buried in 2008, has become a gathering spot for friends, colleagues, and those inspired by his creative example. Artist Jim Blashfield visits to share food and memories of collaboration with Joel. Photographer Judy Blankenship kicks off Day of the Dead events with this vibrant skeletal señorita and her portrait of Joel in Ecuador.
Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission convened friends and admirers of Joel Weinstein to a Día de los Muertos celebration on a crisp November 2, 2011 late afternoon. We all fed from a spread of frutas, tamales, pan dulce, horchata y chocolate caliente a la mexicana. Musicians sang and readers read from favorite pieces in Mississippi Mud and Spanish-language authors, en español y inglés. Stories were told of Joel in our lives. Messages were sent to the great beyond and the traces below.

Mark your calendar for 4 pm November 2, 2012. Unearthly forces might conspire once again.