



## James Elroy Yunowich

July 23, 1976 - March 31, 2014

James Elroy Yunowich,

37, of Los Angeles, California, passed away unexpectedly on March 31, 2014, in Los Angeles, CA.

James was born on July 23, 1976, in Iron Mountain, Michigan and lived in Niagara, Wisconsin until the age of 16, when he moved to Lower Michigan to attend Interlochen Arts Academy on scholarship as a theatre major his junior and senior years of high school

. While residing in Niagara, Jimmy was involved with the Niagara Community Theatre Group and credits that group's support and encouragement in helping him pursue his dreams. He also credited the Niagara High School acting teacher he called his "mentor,"

Stephanie Schunk. James graduated from Interlochen Arts Academy June 2, 1995, receiving the Fine Arts Award for Performance in Acting, voted on by the faculty. He was awarded a Cal Arts Scholarship to attend the California Institute of Arts in Valencia, CA, in

the fall of 1995 to major in acting. SRT (Summer Repertory Theatre) granted James a scholarship to perform in their summer stock production at the Santa

Rosa, CA, Junior College. Eight family members had the luxury of watching James perform in four plays that

summer of 1997. James graduated from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, also on scholarship, in the fall of 1998. In 2007, he furthered his education by attending the Joe Blasco Make-up Artist School where he received an advanced certificate from that

school. A “struggling artist”, is a term James definitely understood, when he moved to LA in 1995 in pursuit of his dreams.

A Memorial Service was held in CA on April 7, 2014, in celebration of his life. During that service many friends shared how he affected their lives with his nonjudgmental love and support, his great big smile, his bear hugs, and that beautiful voice, expressing an

essence and light about him. You just wanted to be around him and be his friend; he was an “old soul” and so very kind. A quote by Seamus Heaney reminded countless friends of James: “He would walk into my mind as if it were a town and he a torchlight

procession of one, lighting up the streets...”

James is survived by his mother, Elyce Yunowich, of Mesa, Arizona, sister and brother-in-law, Jeanne and Paul Jerks, his cherished niece and nephew, Mackenzie and Malcolm Jerks, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, partner, Conor Silva, of Los Angeles, CA, maternal

grandmother, Denyce Mattson, of Iron Mountain, Michigan, Aunt Nancy and Uncle Ron Marks, of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Aunt Diane and Uncle Roger Adams, of Florence, WI, Aunt Gerry and Uncle Dennis Mattson, of Iron

Mountain, MI, Aunt Sharon and Uncle Esley

Mattson, of Munising, MI, cousins Jill Dujardin, Heather Fetner, Heather Johnson, Esley Mattson, Melissa Mattson, and Michael McDonald and many more aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

James was preceded in death by his father, James Yunowich, maternal grandfather, Elroy Mattson, paternal grandparents, Clarice and Eugene Yunowich.

Visitation will be June 28th from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm at the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, Michigan. A celebration of life service will be held at 12:30 pm at the funeral home

. Rev. Gene Wickman will officiate. Burial will be in the Niagara Cemetery.

Condolences to the family of James Yunowich may be expressed online at [www.ernashfuneralhomes.com](http://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com)

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home of Iron Mountain with the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Niagara Cemetery

Washington St.  
Niagara, WI 54151

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**JUN 28.** 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Erickson-Rochon and Nash Funeral Home  
901 Carpenter Avenue  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
(906) 774-7676  
nashfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<https://www.ernashfuneralhomes.com/>

## Celebration of Life

**JUN 28.** 12:30 PM (CT)

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Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
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# Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Missing you always, Jimi!*

Josh Friedman - June 05, 2021 at 03:27 AM

EY

*Just saw this for the first time. I remember you and jimi being good friends at IAA and have many photos of your good times together. Thank you for taking the time to comment. It helps keep his memory alive. I, too, miss him always. Elyce, his mom*

elyce yunowich - August 13, 2021 at 11:58 PM

JF

*Hi Elyce, I just saw this message now. Thank you so much for that. Always nice to stop by this page to see Jimi's picture. Sending you our best wishes!*

Josh Friedman - April 19, 2022 at 02:23 AM

PH

“ *Pam Huffman lit a candle in memory of James Elroy Yunowich*



Pam Huffman - June 26, 2014 at 09:32 PM

EY

*Thank you, Pam. You are so kind. Elyce*

Elyce Yunowich - August 07, 2014 at 05:44 PM

PH

“Elyce, Jeannie & Family, Conor, You have my condolences. I'll forever remember that little blond "elf" who always called me "Pammy Hoffman". He was fun to be around and his death will be a great loss to the world!" Jeannie - I'll always remember the times we spent with Chris & Sarah playing charades at their house. He was such a card!

*Pam Huffman*

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**Pam Huffman** - June 26, 2014 at 09:31 PM

GD

“Elyce and family, We send our prayers and sympathy for the passing of your son. Jimmy is with his Dad and his Grandpa Mattson and is one of God's singers in heaven. Love Gail (Peterson) Dabb

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**Gail (Peterson) Dabb** - June 25, 2014 at 05:45 PM

EY

*Thank you, Gail, how comforting and thoughtful you are. Elyce*

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**Elyce Yunowich** - August 07, 2014 at 05:43 PM

BM

“ELYCE ,so sorry to hear of jimmys passing!I have fond memories of the guitar lessons and Scooter and jimmys behaviors!they had great times together!and the times at camp with Jim and the Currans!were great,Ill never forget those days we all had great times together! You and Jeanne and family have our deepest sympathy!!Bill and Jeanne Morrison!!!!

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**Bill Morrison** - June 24, 2014 at 10:07 PM

EY

*How nice of you, Bill, to take the time to offer words of comfort. Scooter attended Jimmy's service, introduced himself, thank goodness, because I would never have recognized Jimmy's best friend from his childhood. Those were great times. Other best friends, Chrissy and Nick were there too. Scooter has evolved into a handsome hunk. I told him that, but more importantly, he's also nice. Thank you again. Elyce You're a wonderful dad.*

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**Elyce Yunowich** - August 07, 2014 at 05:47 PM

PC

“*Elyce, Dennis and I want you to know how very sorry we are to learn of James' death. We know first hand the pain of losing a child and you and your family are in our prayers.*

*Elyce, you and I talked a number of years ago about James and he has been in my thoughts since. I truly liked him when I subbed at Niagara and felt he was a good person. I know all of this hurts terribly but you know that he is now with his dad and they will look after you and your daughter.*

*Sincerely  
Pat and Dennis Christian*

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**Pat & Dennis Christian** - June 24, 2014 at 12:24 PM

EY

*Thank you, Pat, for taking the time to offer comforting words. Yes, being a member of the losing a child group is not one any of us would like to join. It is indeed painful. However, I will always feel blessed to be Jimmy's mom; I'm sure Dennis and you feel likewise about your son. Jimmy enjoyed you as a sub teacher and I enjoyed taking classes with you. Thank you again. Elyce*

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**Elyce Yunowich** - August 07, 2014 at 05:51 PM



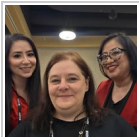
“ *Jimi, I miss those days watching Golden Girls with you in your parents basement. Those were simpler times. I remember in gym class you dropped a quarter down Mr. Prosts "quarter slot". I don't think I ever saw you without a smile. I hope you packed a million lifetimes of fun into your 37 years. No regrets my friend. Until we meet again, Smelch*

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**Smelch** - June 23, 2014 at 10:01 PM



*I did not recognize the name Smelch, so I asked one of your other classmates for your real name. I do recall you saved my son's life when he was an elementary student in Niagara. Seems the story was Jimmy's head got caught in one of the triangular climbing toys and you ran over and held up his legs so he would not just hang there. Seems funny no adult told me about it before because I was employed by the school district at the time. I very much appreciate your help. I understand they removed the triangular climbers soon after the incident. Good thing. Because of you, I had the joy of being his mom 37 years rather than 9 or 10, so again, thank you. Elyce Yunowich*

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**Elyce Yunowich** - August 07, 2014 at 05:57 PM



“ *Jimi was a great friend growing up and always found a way to brighten your day when you were down. I have so many memories of him in the community 3 act plays and when we would study for tests in his basement. ..He was so loving and giving and I think of him daily.*

*Julie (Bennett) Kettlewell*

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**Julie Kettlewell** - June 23, 2014 at 07:20 PM



*I love you, Julie, thank you for being such a wonderful friend to Jimmy. Elyce Yunowich*

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**Elyce Yunowich** - August 07, 2014 at 05:59 PM