



## James A. Faragher

January 23, 1948 - June 30, 2020

James Albert Faragher, known to many as “Coach,” died of natural causes in Beloit, Wisconsin on June 30, 2020.

Jim was born on January 23, 1948 in Lakewood, Ohio, to Margaret “Daisy” Roggenburk Faragher and Philip Faragher. He was predeceased by his parents and an uncle Earl Roggenburk and is survived by cousins Garry and Brian Roggenburk and Judith Kyle and an aunt Mildred Roggenburk.

Jim moved to Wisconsin in 1966 to attend Beloit College. Apart from several experimental stays in Cincinnati and Baltimore, he adopted Beloit as his permanent home. With his brilliant mind and charming ways, he managed to establish himself as a fixture within both the collegiate milieu and the larger Beloit community.

Financial straits forced Jim to quit his formal education, but this never dampened his love for Beloit College. He continued his friendships with faculty and staff, and acted as a wise “life mentor” for generations of students.

With his best friend Chaz Powers, Jim established The Zucchini Bike Shop in a dormitory storeroom, selling and repairing bicycles for students. Later, Zucchini found a home in a converted bookstore on Wisconsin Avenue and opened to the public. Jim’s “wheel-whisperer” competence led to regionwide acclaim as a wheel builder. Jim also competed for years as an amateur road racer, training on the Wisconsin and Illinois country roads he loved so much...even when he was dive-bombed by territorial red-winged blackbirds.

On campus, Jim participated in the mythic athletic event, the 69-Mile Bike Race, in its early years. He helped build and manage the first student bar, the “Coughyhaus,” or “C-Haus.” He was the principal reason that many college alumni made the trip to Beloit for Homecoming/Reunion. At times, his home and the bike shop floor hosted wall-to-wall sleeping bags to accommodate returnees. Jim never missed a single year, and always added to the life of the gatherings.

A voracious reader, Jim never stopped learning. His tastes ran the gamut from history to politics to poetry, from Kerouac to Bukowski.

In recent years, Jim parlayed his passion for civic improvement to the Beloit stage, serving on the Parks Commission, the Community Development Authority, and as chair of the Plan Commission.

It will surprise no one in this state that “Coach” was a sports and beer aficionado, with an encyclopedic knowledge of the former and an encyclopedic taste for the latter. He followed baseball, international bicycle racing, and basketball with remarkable passion and statistical knowledge.

The Blues, Motown, classic Punk, and the lyrics that emanated from these musical genres, were never far from Jim’s written and spoken vocabulary, and their beat drove him onto the dance floor whenever possible. It was a wonder to behold him dancing in his inimitable style to James Brown and the Famous Flames. Let us mourn together as we retire his dancing shoes.

Jim never married, but he was never without love. He often expressed his gratitude for the loving support of his friends during times of happy camaraderie as well as during the darker moments of his life.

In remembrance of Jim and his great love for his dog companions Tristessa, Pete, Sally, Toulouse, Gus, and Little Pal the Dalmatian (featured riding a bike on the Zucchini shop logo) a memorial will be established honoring his love for them, for bicycling and/or for baseball. Donations in his name may be made to Stateline Community Foundation, 690 Third Street, Suite 110, Beloit, WI 53511, or on website [statelinecf.org](http://statelinecf.org). Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI, assisted the family with arrangements.

# Comments

---



“ I was lucky enough to live with Jim and Pal for a while back in the 70's. He was like a wise older brother to me and I fondly recall all the nights of music and talk that seemed to blend into the next day. Sometimes you just carry the memory of someone with you for decades like a pleasant and warm bundle. Sad about the news but so happy to have known him.

**Richard Davidson** - November 08, 2020 at 12:52 PM

---



“ There is always more to a man than one person can know. Reading these tributes gives so much more insight to who Jim was. It is a shame that we don't write tributes before death. My contribution is only that I asked Jim why he was called "Coach". The only thing that I remember about his answer is that being a coach was not the reason he was called coach. Maybe someone else knows the "rest of the story".

**Gary Stephenson** - August 30, 2020 at 06:03 PM

---



“ I just re-read that obituary for Jim Faragher and it is a fine summary of that guy. A beautiful summary. I have always felt that anyone who works on bikes and sort of has a feel for what your are going to do with that bike is important. So it really clicked with me back about 1978 when myself and two Iowa friends decided to ride cross country to Wausau Wisconsin. So I took that 1973 Raleigh ten speed to him and it took a bit of conversation to figure out what was needed per my Iowa advisors but with those better wheels for less money he obtained and that truing of the rims you mentioned, he was pretty boosted about it when he sort of handed it over and said, "I rode it and I think it will be great." A strong endorsement. Could go on and on about it but when everything is balanced and all sized right for the person and that bike was, just by luck. Bought from my college roommate; and then to have Jim go thru it and then you get on and ride the back roads of Wisconsin, and the bike is a non- issue of any kind. It is hard to explain. Thanks also for the reminder about those black birds. My only concern on that trip was going down a monster hill by Sparta, WI. or so near dusk and the speed building up really pretty scary to an almost flight lift off feeling and the bike just a turbine like sound and when I felt the need to back off I began to brake and there was a quick Thunk and one pink pad just sort of flew out in a blur. But not to worry, the real brakes kept things under control and will remember that vista view of Wisconsin for a long time. Thank you Jim. -Nick and Judy McCleary

**Nick McCleary** - July 25, 2020 at 06:58 PM

---



“ Quick wit and sharp mind, sad to see him go. Never could remember how to play Little Wally. Rest In Peace!

Larry Stein - July 13, 2020 at 07:07 PM

---



“ Although I didn't know "Coach" very well, I am moved by his passing. In the early 90's I bought my first bike as an adult from him at Zucchini, and now biking is an important part of my life. I am forever grateful!

Tim Krause - July 13, 2020 at 04:38 PM

---



“ I knew Jim from his days operating the Zucchini Bike shop at the 5-points on the east side. Never one to be shy with his opinion, he encouraged and challenged many people, including myself, to make a bigger difference - someway, somehow. Another Beloitier I will miss, but never forget.



Mark E Preuschl - July 13, 2020 at 12:06 AM

---



“ In a first term '74 anthropology class, I somehow got permission to do my ethnography project studying the house/home where Jim lived. He and Bindy and the folks around them seemed like gods to me. At first a bit intimidated by Jim's opinionated and irreverent genius, before long I was utterly charmed by his generosity and fierce spirit. He'd shake his head and grin watching Pal chase us skinny XC runners through the quad on our afternoon workouts, but there was nobody I would rather have in my corner when shit hit the fan. Big-hearted, sagacious, quick-witted... did I mention irreverent? Our team of three decent riders came in second behind Jim riding [practically] solo in the 69 Mile Bike Race ('75, I think). As humble as he was powerful. RIP, my friend.

Ken Brautigam - July 11, 2020 at 10:07 PM

---



“ Met Jim back in the 70's when he lived in the upstairs apartment of his bike shop at five points in Beloit. Bought my kids first bikes from him. Jim, my dad, Carol Donny and me and fellow WBEL work mate Tom Tinker were on a trivia team back in the 80's at Todd elementary school. We won their trivia contest 2 or maybe even 3 years in a row and were politely asked to Not to come back. He was our "go to guy" for sports trivia. I have fond memories of Jim and will miss him.

**Steve Benton** - July 11, 2020 at 08:54 PM

---



“ Pam Rund Blake lit a candle in memory of James A. Faragher



**Pam Rund Blake** - July 10, 2020 at 11:47 AM

---



“ I met Jim around 1980 when Jim was managing the c-haus. I worked for a local beer distributor, and delivered literally a few thousand half barrels down those slippery steps to the basement. Coach always say on the end barsool, i had 2 barrels of beer on my cart , when I started down those stairs the cart broke and those barrels of beer bounced down the stairs I didn't know coach could move so fast. We would laugh about that for years. Many good times over the years at Goody's and suds. A wise and kind man ! Rip. Chuck Jeffers

**Charles Jeffers** - July 10, 2020 at 06:40 AM

---



“ Call me by my old familiar name.  
Speak to me in the easy way which you always used.  
Put no difference in your tone.  
Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.  
Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes, we enjoyed together.  
Play, smile, think of me. Let my name be ever the household word that is always  
was.  
Let it be spoken without effect. Without the trace of a shadow on it.  
Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same that it ever was.  
There is absolute unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out  
of sight?  
I am but waiting for you. For your interval. Somewhere. Very near. Just around the  
corner.  
All is now well.  
Nothing is past; nothing is lost. One brief moment and all will be as it was before,  
better, infinitely happier and forever we will all be one together again.

**Tara Tinder** - July 09, 2020 at 11:22 PM



“ Beautiful words, Tara

**bindy marks waits** - July 11, 2020 at 04:27 PM

---



“ Jim introduced me to Point Bock Beer... I have enjoyed dark beer ever since. A true  
friend to all. Love you Jim!

**David Belknap** - July 09, 2020 at 09:38 PM

---



“ If you ever needed your bike wheel straightened and tuned, or a Miller High Life and  
great conversation, Jim was the guy. I've known him since I was 8 or 9 and he was  
always great to me. Thanks Coach!

**john yurkew** - July 09, 2020 at 04:25 PM

---



“ It was a privilege to call Coach a friend. He was a true historian with an impeccable  
memory. Coach was my go-to guy to talk politics or cycling. I'll miss his clever  
comments, fruitful conversations, and most of all, his giggle.

**Beth Jacobsen** - July 09, 2020 at 11:32 AM



“ In addition to appreciating his exceptional bicycle repair skills at Zucchini, I always loved it when Coach joined our Thursday night Trivia team at Bushel and Peck’s. When Rich would ask us to name the capital of some tiny obscure country and we debated the answer, Coach would reply “Swizzlestickistan!” We’d all laugh, and it became a relay response whenever we debated an answer. So many good memories. Rest In Peace, Coach, and know you will be missed indeed!

**Ann Sitrick Joyce** - July 09, 2020 at 09:04 AM

---



“ Was always a pleasure to visit this man....either at his bike shop or at a local pub...I was one of the first "bicycle" patrol Officers for the City of Beloit and Jim was the go to guy for any service and maintenance of our bikes....salute sir.....



**Terrence Walsh** - July 09, 2020 at 08:47 AM

---



“ Dean And Brenda Witt lit a candle in memory of James A. Faragher



**Dean and brenda witt** - July 08, 2020 at 08:27 PM

---



“ I'll never dance the same again to James Brown or Depeche Mode... But when our songs come on I'll smile forever... Our conversations will always be apart of me.... Saved forever!!! The words of a wise man! It was an honor to have you as a part of my life.... Love you forever



**Michelle Hannah** - July 08, 2020 at 07:03 PM

---



“ Evie Eggen lit a candle in memory of James A. Faragher



**Evie Eggen** - July 08, 2020 at 06:24 PM

---



“ Coach will be truly missed. He was one of Beloit's most brilliant minds, and always good for a one-of-a-kind story, wry laugh, or political pontification. It was my pleasure to know the man, the myth, and the Beloit legend. He deserves every shred folk hero status a man can earn. He was far beyond a “renaissance man.”

Rest In Peace, friend

**Tom Johnson** - July 08, 2020 at 06:09 PM



“ Beautifully stated Tom. Moving, and captures him eloquently. He would have been very touched.

**Tara Tinder** - July 08, 2020 at 07:00 PM



“ Well said, he was one of a kind, a legend for sure.

**Rod Gottfredsen** - July 11, 2020 at 10:20 PM

---



“ Tom & Lauren Hartung lit a candle in memory of James A. Faragher



Tom & Lauren Hartung - July 08, 2020 at 05:43 PM

---



“ Coach is sadly missed

Tom & Lauren - July 08, 2020 at 05:43 PM

---



“ Jim Maloney lit a candle in memory of James A. Faragher



Jim Maloney - July 08, 2020 at 05:09 PM

---



“ When Jimmy managed the C-Haus, he ended every night by playing the Modern English song "I Melt With You." Although he tried his best to extend his tenure as manager, the authorities would not permit it, and so the last night eventually arrived. At closing time, Jimmy put on the usual song, but the normally-dependable tape player not only refused to play it but also destroyed the tape.

Greg Wilson - July 08, 2020 at 04:29 PM

---



“ Thanks Jim for several decades of bikes, politics, and friendship. You were truly an unforgettable presence in Beloit.....you have helped to shape the culture of our community over the last fifty plus years.  
You are missed.

David Luebke - July 08, 2020 at 04:21 PM



“ Jo lit a candle in memory of James A. Faragher



Jo - July 08, 2020 at 02:40 PM