



Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson

March 11, 1972 - June 14, 2019

Matthew Kenigson, of Nashville, was born March 11, 1972 and passed away on June 14, 2019, slightly after midnight. Matt was the cherished son of Judith Kenigson and Ron Kenigson Kristy, and adoring father to Ellie Kenigson. As husband to Lynda Jones, he brought out a childlike wonder of life for her, reminded her to have fun and showed her how to turn even a simple evening at home into a fun encounter of singing opera at the dinner table or sharing a quick dance, while cooking. What a gift! For 17 years, he brought to Lynda's world an element of excitement and laughter.

A person of many talents and interests, he loved a great variety of activities ranging from: juggling to riding a unicycle, from computer-related subjects to leadership and entrepreneurial ventures, from communicating in fluent Spanish on a very regular basis to spending a large amount of time in Mexico, a country he loved.

Matt was born in Mexico City where he spent much of his childhood before moving to Nashville at the age of 10 years old. After graduating from Hume-Fogg in 1990, Matt attended the University Tennessee (Knoxville) before launching his career in the tech industry. Most recently, he was CEO and Chief Strategist of Parthenon Tech, a Software Development firm. In addition, Matt founded Make Nashville, an extension of MakerNet, to create a magical space for innovators who shared his enormous entrepreneurial spirit. Matt

never ceased to be a dreamer, a creative spirit and the life of the party.

He had a laugh that, literally, filled up every single room he ever entered. His carefree look at life was infectious to many and helped birth much zeal for life, in others. With his huge bear hugs that one could feel to their very core and his infectious laugh, Matt never met a stranger. He was an aficionado of all things Star Wars, a lover of bacon and had perfect pitch with a great James Taylor impression. Matt's giving heart was experienced by every person who knew him. He was, quite literally, the person who would give folks the shirt off his back, if they needed it.

Matt is preceded in death by his Grandmother, Irene Kenigson. He leaves behind his wife Lynda Jones; daughter, Ellie Grace Kenigson; mother, Judith Kenigson; dad, Ron Kenigson (Kristy); sisters, Lisa Kenigson and Claire Karp (Gregory Karp best friend and brother-in-law); brothers, Duncan Smith and William Smith; mother-in-law, Linda Jones; father-in-law, Ted Jones; sister-in-law, Holly Vining; brother-in-law, Brendon Vining; numerous nieces and nephews, and a world of friends, far too numerous than can be counted, who will miss him immensely.

A Celebration of Life visitation will be held Saturday, June 22nd for 4-7pm at West End UMC, 2200 West End Ave. Nashville, TN 37203. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Make Nashville, The Contributor and/or the Nashville Humane Society.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

West End United Methodist Church
2200 West End Ave.
Nashville, TN 37203

Tribute Wall



“ *Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *May care and love of those around you provide comfort and peace to get you through the days ahead. My most sincere condolences to you and your daughter and extended family. God Bless!!*

Vic Lineweaver

Vic Lineweaver - June 24, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ *Memories - Dear Lynda, Ellie and the entire family,
I picture Matt's smile each time I think of him. I feel his bear hugs that were a part of every gathering, an open, loving heart that gave these old friends an invitation to do the same - our group were "huggers" something that I believe Matt inspired in all of us - and we were a loving family in our own right . As more the introvert type myself, Matt always put me at ease at every gathering, expressing his joy for my and everyone's company. I also will always remember his laughter. Big and hearty. And his joy in speaking Spanish, his love of his mom, Judith's, food. I remember the beaming pride he showed for his daughter Ellie upon her birth and I remember the giddiness and spark in his eye when I met his wife to be, Lynda, for the first time. And Lynda- wow- you have inspired me more than you know.*



I was in awe of his fearless passion for life, his ideas and optimism always flowing.

May your heavy hearts be lifted in his memory, may he always guide you from the love and not the loss, and as for me, I love you Matt. This one is tough - u will always remain in my memory and forever in my ❤️.

Lori Gilmore - June 23, 2019 at 10:16 PM



“ One of my early reactions to the news of Matt’s departure was ”The world is a shade dumber, less kind, and less imaginative today; as it is less one Matt Kenigson.” I thought about those words more today, I decided to expand:

Dumber - because Matt had little patience for dumb things: software, structures of groups, technology... if you thought you were cutting edge, chances are Matt already gave up on that idea or tech, because it wasn’t cool anymore. I’ll never forget the time he decided he had transcended beyond email. He suffered few individuals who were willfully anti intellectual as well. Seeking to move himself and all those he knew beyond “dumb” was in his nature - the nature of a brilliant mind.

Less kind - because Matt had a way of talking you down from being less than understanding of others, and those he himself found frustration in were still given kindness well beyond what most people would. He will always be an example of kindness to me, which I could stand to emulate, and I bet I’m not alone in that aspiration.

Less imaginative - because Matt could always conjure something new in his head. “Serial entrepreneur” isn’t even an accurate term for the man. Just when you thought he was bored with whatever you thought his latest idea was, you’d realize he had simply jumped into his own imagination with both feet again.

Matt was truly unique, and truly gracious. Always a “maker” in some way.

To all the traits we will miss, he applied the influence of one of the most intelligent, proud, and fair women a man could know, and often shared the wise influences he gleaned from Lynda with his friends and cohorts. Through all the traits we will miss he was a jolly and proud dad to Ellie.

He will never leave our collective consciousness, and his influences will be cherished - and live on through his family and contemporaries - for a very long time.



Lucas Leverett - June 23, 2019 at 11:39 AM

TN

“ *Dear Lynda, Ellie, Family and Friends..... Words are difficult especially at a moment such as this but please know, as I am sure you do, that Matt will have a lasting impact on all who new him and of course this entire community. Always a hug and a smile and full of optimism for the future. Condolences and Prayers that your heavy hearts will be full of the Love Matt brought to us all. Tom Negri and Family*

Tom Negri - June 22, 2019 at 04:13 PM

YC

“ *Dear Lynda, Our hearts are saddened by your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you and Ellie. Matt will always be in our hearts. My deep condolences to all his family on behalf of our Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.*

Yuri Cunza - June 22, 2019 at 03:59 PM

ME

“ *The whole e-NABLE community was blessed by Matt's warm enthusiasm and encouragement. I'm so sorry for your loss. I hope you'll see the maker community as part of his legacy and your extended family.*

Maria Esquela - June 22, 2019 at 03:34 PM

NT

“ *It seems just about every Nashville event or festival I attended I'd bump into Matt and it always made me feel like I had a friend in a sea of strangers. He remains a great inspiration to those of us looking to build community and lift all boats -*

Niq Tognoni - June 22, 2019 at 11:36 AM

YC

“ *Yuri Cunza purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.*



Yuri Cunza - June 21, 2019 at 02:44 PM

WC

“ *Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.*



Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs - June 21, 2019 at 01:18 PM

KT

“ *Lynda and Ellie,
I am so sorry for your tragic loss. I remember fondly his continual optimism and positive energy he brought to the Overbrook robotics team. Prayers to you during this difficult time.*

Kevin Tumminello - June 20, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.



June 19, 2019 at 02:02 PM



“ Throughout the years I have met very few people who light up a room like Matt. Helping people was second nature to him. I had known Matt for a couple years but we were not the closest of friends. However, that didn't stop him from going above and beyond to help me during a time where I was jobless and homeless. Sacrificing his time, money, and energy to make the lives of others better; is how I will always remember the man I called friend.

Chris Hamby - June 19, 2019 at 01:49 PM



“ Ted and Linda Jones, Brendan & Holly Vining and girls purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.



Ted and Linda Jones, Brendan & Holly Vining and girls - June 19, 2019 at 10:37 AM

AT

“ *Agenia Clark & Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.*



Agenia Clark & Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee - June 18, 2019 at 05:34 PM

SG

“ *Matt was one of the first friends I had at Make Nashville, and he was just such an amazing guy. He was kind, passionate, creative, and had wonderful leadership skills for encouraging talent and exploration. We are both going to miss him and his sense of humor so much, he was very influential in making me feel at home in the makerspace. Our hearts go out to his family at this time. ~Sam and Gryphon*

Sam and Gryphon - June 18, 2019 at 01:21 PM

KM

“ *My heart breaks for you and your family, Judge Jones. I am truly sorry. Please know that you are in our prayers.*

Kevin and Sarah McGee

Kevin McGee - June 18, 2019 at 01:09 PM

MW

“ *My sincere condolences.*

Monte Watkins - June 18, 2019 at 06:30 AM

JM

“ Linda, I am going to be out of town this weekend or I would be at his celebration of life. You have been in my thoughts and prayers daily. You are loved by many!

Jan Maddox - June 17, 2019 at 09:37 PM

YN

“ Your sisters in the law at NAWJ purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.



Your sisters in the law at NAWJ - June 17, 2019 at 02:15 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.



June 17, 2019 at 01:41 PM

LT

“ Lisa D. and Lyn in Toronto purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.



Lisa D. and Lyn in Toronto - June 17, 2019 at 07:57 AM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Matthew R. "Matt" Kenigson.*



June 15, 2019 at 02:30 PM



“ *Lynda,*

I am deeply saddened to hear of Matt's passing. Praying that God brings your family comfort and peace during this time of sorrow. He was a good man that I am grateful to have both worked with and counted as a friend.

-Allen Minix

Ps. 34:18

Allen Minix - June 15, 2019 at 01:46 AM



Just heard about the sudden loss of Matt. Much prayer for you and Ellie.

anita whisnant - June 15, 2019 at 09:14 AM



Lynda,

I am so sorry about Matt. He was a true force of nature and had so much more to share. Truth be told, I had a hard time keeping up with all of his ideas, ventures and brilliant collaborations. In addition to his business acumen, Matt had other truly endearing qualities. He always talked about you and that was so sweet. The world will be less without him.

Lisa O'Dell

Lisa O'Dell - June 16, 2019 at 10:50 AM

LD

Heartbreaking. Much love to Lynda, E, Judith, Ron, Lisa, and all who loved him. Lisa and Lyn in Toronto.

Lisa Dempster - June 17, 2019 at 07:49 AM