



Alan Philip Gross

June 29, 1947 - August 25, 2023

Alan Philip Gross, 76, of Chicago's Sandburg Village community in Old Town; playwright, advertising creative, journalist, poet; passed away August 25, 2023.

Born in Chicago, raised in Skokie, Alan graduated from Evanston Township High School before earning his journalism degree from the University of Missouri.

Alan's work in theater with Byrne Piven, Del Close, and Paul Sills inspired his attempt to merge improv techniques with the structure of the "well-made play," starting with *Lunching*, in 1977. Subsequent plays included *The Phone Room*, *La Brea Tarpits*, *The Man in 605*, *The Houseguest*, *Morning Call*, *The Secret Life of American Poets*, and *High Holidays*.

Alan worked in advertising at Foote, Cone, & Belding in Los Angeles and Leo Burnett in Chicago. Winner, 2008 Robert Frost Festival Poetry Award.

He taught playwrighting at Columbia College Chicago and wrote children's books. His poetry has been published locally in *Chicago Quarterly Review* and *After Hours Press*.

Beloved husband of 45 years (partner for 50) of Norma Jean Gross (nee

Topa); brother of Gary Gross. Son of the late Melvin and Shirlee Marks Gross.

He leaves behind many dear friends including Bill and Susan Currie, Dale and Sherie McFadden, Pat and Keith Kremer, and Kathy and Richie Kaplan.

A celebration of life is being planned. Please check back to this website for further information as it becomes available.

Donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois, which facilitated the kidney transplant Al received from his wife: www.nkfi.org.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-370-2959 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall

RT

“ I delighted in Alan's company and help in my directing his "LaBrea Tar Pits" in Los Angeles. A terrific time. I want to direct it again but need to get in touch with Gary or Norma. If anyone can help, please let me know (rennytemple1@gmail.com).

Renny Temple - July 22, 2025 at 07:19 PM

RR

“ My condolences to Norma and Gary. I'm so sorry for your loss. May his memory be a blessing. Cousin Richard Rudy



Richard Rudy - September 05, 2023 at 10:56 AM

MB

“ One of the nicest and certainly the funniest person I have ever known.
Mary Bartolucci

mary bartolucci - August 28, 2023 at 05:53 PM