

BENJAMIN MANEA

March 9, 1957 – June 15, 2019



Passed away suddenly with his wife and good friends by his side. He had been living heroically with ALS for almost 2 years, continuing to run the bakery he founded in 2007 despite having lost the use of his arms and hands. He leaves his loving wife Sharon, his family in Israel, and many dear fans and friends. Ben was a technical engineer who served 6 years in the Israeli Air Force and later worked in a wide variety of technical fields. He and his wife moved from Toronto to the Okanagan in 2005, where he founded Walla

Artisan Bakery & Café and was able to express his highly creative talent for baking and cooking. He became especially known for the unique long-fermentation process he developed over 12 years so his breads could be enjoyed even by those with gluten intolerance. Ben spearheaded the creation of the Penticton Downtown Market where he sold his outstanding baking for many years. A superb craftsman and true friend, he inspired others by his integrity, passion and commitment. He made us laugh with his irreverent sense of humor and will be deeply missed. Heartfelt thanks to Drs. Louw, Meli and Wittel, to Lori Motluk, and to the many healthcare professionals who provided him with their caring support. Ben was especially grateful to his loyal 'band of brothers' who stayed the course with him and allowed him to keep doing what he loved: Kalman Szel, Bruce Merit, Edward Moravec, Uwe Braatz, and Kurtis Robinson. There will be a private graveside burial, and no service at his request. To honor his legacy, his friends will keep Walla Bakery open at the Cannery for one final week, Tues-Fri. (June 18-21) from 9-3 pm., where people can offer their tributes and condolences. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to your favourite charity in his memory. Condolences and memories may be shared by visiting www.everdenrust.com