



## James "Jim" Petersen

February 26, 1953 - March 6, 2023

James "Jim" Petersen, age 70 of Berlin, now absent from the body, face to face with the Lord.

Passed away peacefully March 6, 2023 at his sister's home in Green Bay after a short illness.

Jim was born on February 26, 1953 in Oshkosh, the son of Bernard and Syvilla (Funte) Petersen.

He attended Oshkosh schools and graduated with the 1971 Class of Oshkosh North, later attending UW Oshkosh majoring in Anthropology.

Jim was bit by the history bug at the age of 12 when he found an arrowhead and while taking it to the Oshkosh Museum was told that it was 1200 years old. This interest helped to accumulate years of collecting and knowledge of the area's vast history.

He belonged to many different organizations and collecting clubs and became the editor of the Mechanical Banker, an international publication specializing in antique mechanical banks for five years during the 1980's. He traveled the country and put on thousands of miles buying and selling antiques and eventually focusing on early American history, Civil War, mechanical banks,

historic images, Pre-Columbian artifacts, clocks and Navajo rugs and pottery.

In 1990, he was asked to partner in a new antique store in Berlin and while checking the town out paused in front of the Federated Church and saw the sign over the door which read, "Behold! I have placed an open door!" This combined with having parked in front of a park dedicated to the veterans of the civil war, he felt it was his sign to leave Oshkosh and move to Berlin.

He eventually restored two houses overlooking that park and several other historic properties also.

In the following years Jim was dedicated to his antique business reinventing his business as Old Abe Antiques in honor the mascot of 8th Wisconsin Infantry and locating his shop in various locations in Berlin and finally in Princeton. After years making hundreds of contacts, Jim worked out of his apartment as he rarely found an item that would not have an immediate buyer.

Jim was honored by the Milwaukee Public Museum for the donation of a historically significant collection from a founding Milwaukee black family, and also by the Fort Winnebago Museum upon his donation of items he had excavated and research he had accumulated.

A lover of history, Jim never missed a chance to talk about his family's unique and historically religious background. Quoting excerpts from his relative's diaries or letters, some written from a mission in India, his love for the gospel through these stories always shown through. When Jim left a conversation and ended it with, "I have you in my prayers", there was never a doubt that you weren't in his prayers. Jim had a close relationship with his Lord and Savior. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

He was a member and former president of the Berlin Rotary Club, member and former president of the Berlin Historical Society, board member of the Berlin Improvement District, Victorian Days Committee, Berlin Lion's Club, and enjoyed attending his church, River Shores of Berlin.

Jim is survived by his sister, Angeline (Melvin) Koss of Green Bay; their children/spouses, Sarah & Todd Spindler, Peter and Lisa Koss, Stephen and Kristine Koss and Timothy and Michelle Koss; brother, Thomas (Susan) Petersen of Oshkosh, his children/spouses, Paula and Bill Tellock, David & Carlene Petersen; great-nieces and great-nephews, other relatives and many friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and sister-in-law, Barbara, and other relatives.

Family and friends may visit with the family on Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at River Shores Evangelical Free Church of Berlin.

A funeral service will follow visitation at 11:00 a.m. with Pastor Casey Getz officiating.

Family and friends are invited to the multi-purpose room for a luncheon and a time for sharing.

Inurnment will be held in spring in the Oak Lawn Cemetery in the Town of Black Wolf .

The family wishes to thank ThedaCare Berlin, Unity Hospice, and Green Bay Oncology for their care and compassion showed to Jim.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 18. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

River Shores Evangelical Free Church  
253 Church St  
Berlin, WI 54923  
<https://rivershores.org/>

## Funeral Service

MAR 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

River Shores Evangelical Free Church  
253 Church St  
Berlin, WI 54923  
<https://rivershores.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of James "Jim" Petersen*



**Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home** - March 14, 2023 at 04:36 PM

TS

*Very nice. He had the true love of antiques and met him at my granny's. House. She owned trash and treasure house on Reyner rd in Larsen. Then we both lived in berlin. He loved his history. We had many many talks. Will miss him dearly. Till we meet again Jim. Take care. Teresa*

**Teresa. Schaez** - March 14, 2023 at 06:07 PM

AN

*Wonderful tribute to Jim! Good man with a good heart. Sorry for your loss Dan and family.*

**Annie** - March 18, 2023 at 07:23 PM

CW

*Was at Indian Agency House in Portage, WI today that has an exhibit of artifacts Jim found on Garlic Island near Oshkosh and donated to The Indian Agency House! They said he was a knowledgeable well respected collector and historian*

**Charles Williams** - July 23, 2023 at 08:43 PM

AS

“ Jim was a great friend to my father John Steinbring. And when my parents passed away Jim was a great friend to me and my brothers. He helped us clear out a 170 year old historic home filled with antiques, books and anthropological/archaeological items. Jim was a lovely man who made our overwhelming task manageable. We are truly sorry to hear he has passed and wish his family sincere condolences. Amelia Steinbring and family

Amelia Steinbring - March 16, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home - March 16, 2023 at 11:17 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home - March 15, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ 127 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



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**Wiecki-Skipchak Funeral Home** - March 14, 2023 at 04:33 PM

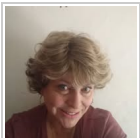


“ *Chris Beck lit a candle in memory of James Petersen*



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**Chris Beck** - March 11, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We had many interesting conversations over the years. Enjoyed our time at Rotary functions..he loved our guacamole when at our house,and talked about it often. He will be missed. God Bless*

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**Mary Johnson** - March 09, 2023 at 08:47 AM