



## ROBERT NEWELL AVERY JR.

May 22, 1940 - August 8, 2017

ROBERT N. AVERY, JR. SWOOPE, VA... Robert Newell Avery Jr. died on June 19, 2017 at his home in Swoope, VA. Born in Evanston, Illinois, on May 22, 1940, Bob was a man of many talents: an artist, a Jazz DJ, an actor and producer in films and on stage, a restaurant and gallery owner, and an arts administrator. He was an illustrator and sculptor who was the director of the Mendocino Art Center in California and the Staunton Augusta Art Center in Virginia. His Avery Studio Gallery was in the space that is now Zynadoa Restaurant. Robert was a member of the California National Guard in the 1950s and 60s. He graduated from California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts) in Oakland, CA. He owned the Wildlife Gallery and the Ug Restaurant in Mendocino, CA. He met his wife, Amanda, when they were cast as brother and sister in a production of Agatha Christie's 'The Mousetrap'. They moved to Virginia with their daughter Melinda in 1993. As well as his wife, Amanda, and daughter, Melinda, Robert is survived by his son Robert Walter Avery, a veterinarian in Grass Valley, CA, and daughter-in-law Inger, grandson Fritz, and granddaughter Brita. He also leaves a sister, Margot Avery of Sausalito and Martinez, CA. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Newell Avery and Margaret Avery McCloud, and his first wife, Karen Lissoll Black. Robert was a member of Staunton's First Presbyterian Church, the Staunton Kiwanis Club, and Virginia Master Gardeners. He was an inveterate collector, particularly of model trains and wind-up toys. Memorial contributions may be made to either the Staunton Augusta Art Center or the Mendocino Art Center. A memorial service will be conducted by the Reverend Karen Allamon at First Presbyterian Church in Staunton at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. Henry Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

# Comments

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“ Bob s spirit is still strongly felt.

**Scott and Peggy Ballin** - June 14, 2019 at 12:00 AM

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“ My husband and I had the honor of having Odd Bob officiate at our tiny wedding on the Mendocino Headlands on Thanksgiving Day over 30 years ago, generously giving up part of his holiday for our sake. He chose the perfect spot (we lived out of the area then). We had no knowledge of what he would say ahead of time, yet his ceremony couldn't have been more beautiful and perfect if we had written it ourselves. He quoted Gibran, of course, and had brought a silver bowl and goblet, from which we shared the bread and water of life. Even though we only interacted with Bob the one time, he had a big, positive impact on us, and we grieve his too-soon passing from this plane. Love you Bob, and you have our eternal gratitude.

**Laura & Don Lind & Taylor** - July 12, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I did not know Bob personally, but have read quite a bit about him recently, as he was a consistent supporter of his alma mater (and my employer), California College of the Arts. We love to see our alumni stay involved in the school and are so appreciative of Bob's consistent contributions over the years. I only wish I could have gotten to know Bob in person; he seems to have been a deeply talented and truly effusive man. On behalf of the School and the larger arts community in the San Francisco Bay Area, my deepest sympathies to Amanda and all the Avery family on Bob's passing.

**Carolyn Salcido** - July 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bob was a wonderful, smart and creative guy. He served with me on the Mendocino Unified School District Board of Trustees for several years. I would have been happy if he could have stayed on the Board more years as he was a great Trustee. When negotiating with teachers, staff and the community for what was best for our kids, we sometimes had quite successful chats ("meetings") at the Sea Gull Cellar Bar, accompanied by one of his own drink concoctions that he labeled - "The Mendocino Dirty Bird" (which was a mix of Tequila, Kahlua, Brandy, Vodka, Cream and Ice - blended together). That drink, with several "club soda backs" to lengthen its sipping time, often facilitated good compromises and generative thinking. I have so many fond memories of this "life affirming" guy. My deepest sympathies for his loss. Blessings, Hildrun

Hildrun-Uta Triebess - July 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Bob's passing should have been the Beacon's headline. Very few have influenced Mendocino & its residents on the many levels that he did. One event I'll never forget is when he had the guts to play "The Reagan Tapes" on KMFB back in 1984. The comedy tape was a product of the Community School and was pretty controversial in content but very funny. Boy did he get flak from local Republicans- but he shined them on with his usual self-effacing humor. Truly a one of a kind spirit.

joey michaels - June 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Amanda, you may remember me. I remember you. And Bob. He was my Major Magnus in the production of Tom Stoppard's "The real Inspector Hound" I directed at the Mendocino Performing Arts theatre in the 1980's. Bob was a vital part of the ensemble. I'll never forget his rocking back and forth in his ( Major Magnus's) wheelchair opposite Sylvia Kozak-Budd's Missus Drudge. Hilarious. Later he produced my poster for "A Christmas Story", which remains a classic. He returned from Virginia to run the Mendocino Art Center and recover it from its financial perils. Bob, above all else, was a gentleman and sophisticate who knew art, philosophy, politics and aesthetics. He is greatly missed, and appreciated.

Lee Edmundson - June 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss. Prayers are with you Amanda and Melinda. He will be missed a lot. He was such a kind and funny man. If I was having a bad day he would always make me smile. He will always be remembered.

**KAREN MEADOWS** - June 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was truly saddened to hear the news he had passed. He was a very fun and vivacious person who will always be remembered for his smile and great sense of humor.

**Tonya Martin** - June 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Remembering Bob fondly and lifting you and your family in prayer during this difficult time.

**Jim & Judy Williams** - June 24, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ Oh Amanda,I knew you were expecting this but still it isn't easy. My heart goes out to you and I wish I could give you a hug. I know you'll stay strong. Sending our love.  
Jerry Lynn and Roller

**Jerry Lynn Shipplett** - June 23, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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Ron Greenberg,

Staunton, Virginia

**Ron Greenberg** - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ A great loss.

**Davis Cangalosi** - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ I was saddened to learn of Bob's passing. I first met him in his gallery on Beverley Street and later got to know him a little better when we served on the Art Center Board together. He was talented, thoughtful, and an asset to the community. We need more Bob Avery's . He will be missed.

**Scott Ballin** - June 21, 2017 at 12:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Bob was a special patient and friend to me at West Augusta Family Practice. I have thought of him often since I left the practice in 2012. Thoughts and prayers to you, Amanda.

**Sandy Lee** - June 20, 2017 at 12:00 AM