



## Carl Jay Welke

March 12, 2024

Carl Welke passed away at home on March 12, 2024 at the age of 71 after a brief battle with cancer. He was an avid fisherman, a gardener, a chef, a tinkerer, and so much more. He knew every story ever told and a few extra besides.

Carl grew up in Madison where his father honed his love for the outdoors and his mother taught him the magic of cooking and the bonding power of a good meal. He met his future wife Rachel working at a restaurant in 1979. He and Rachel were wed in May of 1982, and have three loving children together.

His love of cooking was furthered with a 17 year career at Nakoma Golf Club, working his way up the ranks to Executive Chef. A move to Richland Center in 1995 treated him to a short break as a stay-at-home father, until he returned to cooking in 2000 as the Food Service Director for the Weston School District. In his time at Weston, he helped create a breakfast program, build a flourishing school garden, and found the Outdoors Club; a club dedicated to getting kids outside and into nature. He was a very generous, kind, and helpful person who always was thinking about how he could help his neighbors and friends - whether it was catching a couple extra fish, bringing a goody bag of vegetables from his garden so someone could have a delicious meal, or just lending a helping hand to make light work.

Carl is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Rachel; his 3 children Henry, Hans, and Nina (Sean); two grandchildren, Auri and Briar; his sister Lee (Charlie) Bass; his brother Kurt (Susanne) Welke; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Kathleen.

A private service will be held for the family, with a Celebration of Life to come - please visit Carl's CaringBridge site at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/update/soncarlwelke> for the details.

# Cemetery Details

## **Roselawn Memorial Park**

401 Femrite Drive  
Monona, WI 53716

# Tribute Wall

JH

“ Our deepest sympathy to Rachel and the kids. Carl was one of a kind! To know Carl was to love him. He was the best story teller and had the biggest heart. He started the Outdoor Club while he worked at Weston because he wanted every child to be a part of something. The kids loved it and it became a HUGE success because of Carl's love of the outdoors. You will be missed but never forgotten. RIP my friend.

*Jayne Huth*

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**Jayne Huth** - April 17, 2024 at 03:01 PM

LU

“ So sorry to hear this news. Thinking of all of you with sympathy.  
*Mrs. Anderson*

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**Lois R Anderson Ursin** - March 26, 2024 at 08:58 AM

DG

“ The father of my son's best friend/my extra son. Carl was a terrific guy with such a beautiful spirit. I remember sitting together at our son's football games cheering them on. We shared lots of laughter and many of life's stories. You will be missed my friend. Until we meet again. God bless you.

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**Darcee J Guerrero** - March 17, 2024 at 08:41 PM

LB

“ *My deepest condolences to all of you. 💜 Kathleen was my Mother's first cousin and we have many wonderful memories of all of us cousins growing up together. So very sorry! Much love,  
Lucille Arbisi Barthelman  
Rockford, Illinois*

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**Lucille Arbisi Barthelman** - March 16, 2024 at 05:41 PM