



## Astral Benjamin Freeman

June 23, 1991 - January 21, 2024

Astral Benjamin Freeman of Asheville entered eternity on January 21, 2024. He was born and raised in Tampa, FL. He is survived by his parents, Susan and Dr. Tom Freeman, of Tampa and Asheville, siblings Danny Freeman of San Francisco and Jon-Delia of Asheville, and grandmothers Lea and Carolynn of Prairie Village, KS.

He was a creative spirit in everything he touched, from painting to poetry. As a musician, he played drums in America's Youngest Jazz Band, including three years at New Orleans Jazz Fest. He served as section leader of the Hillsborough High School Big Red Band and was rhythmically gifted.

He offered his unique inner experiences to others through the language of poetry, and published his first book, "Present Moment Poetry." He co-founded the Asheville Alive Poets Society and performed there often.

He shared himself with people in recovery as a Peer Support Specialist at Seek Healing of Asheville.

Astral's sensitivity, empathy, and insight were abundant and frequently experienced by those who knew and loved him. Astral listened to others with a compassionate ear. He derived meaning and joy from supporting others, and did everything he could to make the world a more connected and loving place. His family and friends were blessed by his intense and beautiful inner light. He will be missed and in our hearts forever.

Funeral services are at Congregation Beth HaTephila with burial at Riverside Cemetery, with arrangements by Morris Funeral Home.

The family suggests donations to Brain and Behavior Foundation, NAMI or Seek Healing of Asheville.

Donations to honor his memory may be made to:

Seek Healing of Asheville, [www.seekhealing.org](http://www.seekhealing.org), where Andrew worked.

Brain and Behavior Research Foundation, [www.bbrfoundation.org](http://www.bbrfoundation.org) or NAMI, [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

# Cemetery Details

## Riverside Cemetery

53 Birch Street  
Asheville, NC 28801

# Tribute Wall

DM

“ *Dr. Katrina Burrus, MCC purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Astral Benjamin Freeman.*



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**Dr. Katrina Burrus, MCC** - February 09, 2024 at 06:32 PM

JT

“ *Susan-*

*What a tragic loss of a beautiful soul and one I know is most difficult to endure for a mother. I share your grief and know it pierces the soul. I pray in time your many precious memories will erupt to the surface of everyday life and ease your pain and even bring you joy. I am so sorry you have suffered this unfathomable loss and I pray for you and your family and hope God uplifts your spirit and comforts your suffering. In sympathy, Jeanne Tate*

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**Jeanne Tate** - February 01, 2024 at 02:58 PM

LP

“ *I am so very sorry for the loss of Andrew. I'm including you in my prayers and may you find peace and joy in all the memories you have with Andrew. Luanne Panacek*

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**Luanne J Panacek** - January 31, 2024 at 06:41 PM

SG

“ I remember Andy from Academy at the Lakes. He was such a sweet natured boy and always said hello and was kind to the younger children in the school. Both my sons, Ben and Jake remember him too, and said he was so smart. Please accept our deepest sympathies on the loss of your beautiful son and may his memory be for a blessing. Sandy, Steve, Ben and Jake Gersten



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**Sandy Gersten** - January 30, 2024 at 04:20 PM

AB

“ Astral came to meditate at the Kalyāṇa-Mitta Meditation Center a number of times and we had interesting conversations afterwards. I remember Astral to be an upbeat and humorous person who was sincere in expressing his truth and discovering something greater. The Meditation Center is honouring the memory of Astral. My condolences to his family. Ajahn Kumāro Bhikkhu

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**Ajahn Kumāro Bhikkhu** - January 26, 2024 at 04:01 AM

TZ

“ Theresa Z. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Benjamin Freeman.

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**Theresa Z.** - January 24, 2024 at 08:19 PM

Alan  
Robinson

“ I hosted a poetry night at trade and lower coffee shop Andrew was one of the poets that came and performed his poetry was beautiful and moved everyone I will never forget him he came to two different events that I had and performed his poems I also heard him perform poetry at the Block on the alive poetry night and he was wonderful I will truly miss hearing his beautiful poetry and I'm truly sad about his tragic ending and I wish the family great sympathy and condolences thinking of everyone thank you

Alan Robinson - January 24, 2024 at 07:58 PM

DW

“ Don Smith and Laurie Woodard planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Andrew Benjamin Freeman.

Don Smith and Laurie Woodard - January 24, 2024 at 11:20 AM

DW

“ Don Smith and Laurie Woodard purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Astral Benjamin Freeman.



Don Smith and Laurie Woodard - January 24, 2024 at 11:20 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Astral Benjamin Freeman.



January 23, 2024 at 02:16 PM