

John Levey

January 27, 1934 - November 16, 2022

John was truly a man of the world. Born in England, he qualified as a chartered accountant, living and working in Tanzania, Jamaica, Hamilton and Vancouver before finding nirvana on the Saanich peninsula.

John loved the West Coast and took up kayaking after he retired from UVic. An active member of Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club and then SISKa he served as treasurer for both clubs. He attained Paddle Canada Level 3, led club and Wednesday paddles; kayaking last in September 2022. In his 70's he circumnavigated Saltspring Island in a day with friends. His greatest feat may have been crossing from Cordova Bay to Orcas Island at the age of 84 with his grandson and a friend from Camp Indralaya.

Throughout his life John also enjoyed x-country running, tennis, squash, sailing, biking, hiking, swimming, woodwork and beekeeping. John had a dry sense of humour and loved a good laugh. He loved nature and respected all living things. As a vegetarian, for his final act he chose a green burial. John will be remembered for his limericks and Tai Chi warm-ups before paddling. He was a good man who lived a good life and was active until a few days before his death. John left behind his loving wife Shelagh, four children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.



After John's celebration of life, his oldest daughter Andrie sent SISKa this card.

Dear Kayakers, (SISKA members)

Many thanks for all that you did to include John Levey in your Wednesday paddles and longer club trips and adventures. He loved ocean kayaking and the camaraderie of being with all of you.

It was a wonderful tribute slideshow that you shared on your December club newsletter about him. With his delightful sense of humour he would have been so appreciative.

We really were grateful to those who made it to his celebration of life. To Alan Campbell and Gordon Morner who were super-brave and shared their stories that were precious. The part about you feeling

that the killer whales with their intelligence in nature came to John, just made it, as that was so him! The respect, the love for wilderness, admiration for animals, moving self propelled, being with others was such a part of his enjoyment with kayaking. He would have felt so honoured and humbled with all your kind words.

It really felt special when people were coming in to the celebration and hearing a past member asking how long John had paddled for and a woman who shared - until a few months ago - and that even then she couldn't keep up to him.

My husband made a cedar strip kayak and on launch day when John took it for a spin he commented

'It would never be paddled with such skill and finesse again!'

John's experiences kayaking made him a deeper person, more courageous, mindful, kinder, grateful, aware, spiritual and definitely living life to the fullest by being with all of you. Many thanks.

We saw how he had marked the calendar to attend the Xmas lunch party. It wasn't meant to be. Instead he headed off on the next adventure and we were so fortunate to know

Sharon Kay Art

Greeting card of original acrylic painting on canvas

Sharon Kay is a photographer and painter who works as a wildlife guide on British Columbia's wild coasts.

him and have such great memories.

www.sharonkayphotography.com

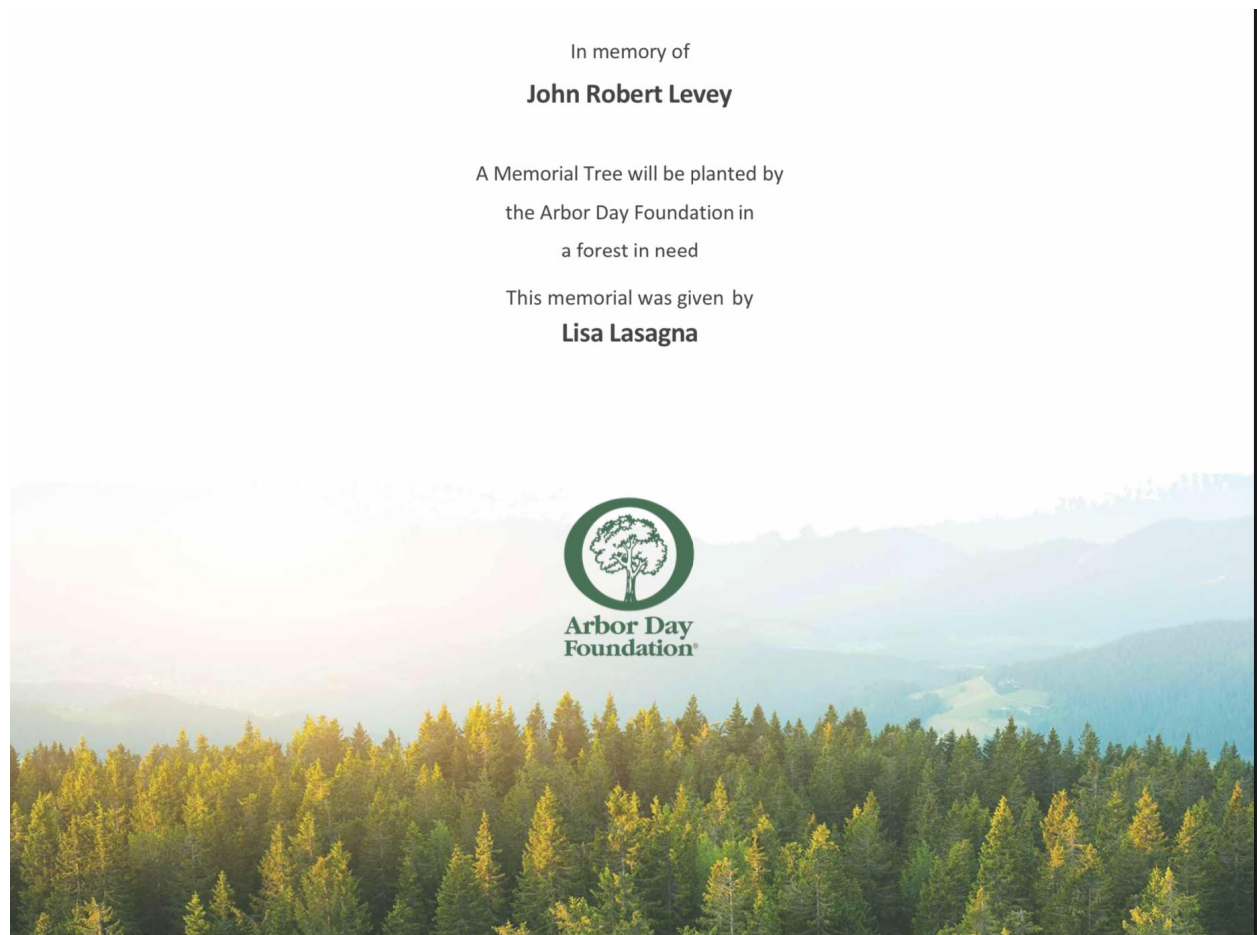
[sharonkay_art](https://www.instagram.com/sharonkay_art)

Love from Andrie Levey-Bater



Sharon Kay 2021

SISKA Executive (through Lisa Lasagna as Secretary) purchased a tree in memory of John.



John's wife Shelagh sent the following note

Thank you for your kind gesture in John's memory. He would have been delighted to know that trees had been planted to celebrate his life. We have attended several rallies for old growth and visited Fairy Creek, so memorial trees are perfect. Trees are essential for life. John had a green burial on a site that is going to become a garry oak meadow with all the understory like camas.

In the past it used to be said that young men planted trees, and old men planted flowers. Not so anymore!

Thank you Lisa, and all the very best,
Shelagh

Shelagh Butterworth Levey,
5392 Sayward Hill Cres.,
Cordova Bay,
Victoria, BC V8Y 3H8