

SKYWALKER

Gedenkfeier für James Smith*



*alle Namen geändert

1. SEPTEMBER 2016

11:00 UHR ABDANKUNGSHALLE FRIEDHOF AARAU

Texte von Murielle Kälin www.schlusslicht.ch



Lied Red Hot Chili Peppers "Otherside"

Thank you all for coming to help us celebrate James* life and share our grief at his passing. When I first met Lea* his wife, she told me, she just recently read a statement on Facebook that said:

"We are here together to celebrate life not death!"

And that is exactly what we are going to do right now.

We just heard a song from the Red Hot Chili Peppers called the Otherside. The Red Hot Chili Peppers were one of James* most favourites Bands. And there was no question that this song had to be one of the songs we are going to play today. If you listen carefully to the lyrics you might get the impression...it's a bit...let's say dark isn't it. But James was such an enlightened Person. How does that fit?

I don't know if all of you know, that James was a huge Science Fiction and Fantasy Fan. He really liked Star Wars, Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter. And they all have one thing in common. The light fights against the dark. Good against evil. Luke Skywalker, fights Darth Vader, Hobbits fight against Sauron, Harry Potter against the one who must not be named called Lord Voldemort. And I guess sometimes our life feels quite a bit like Star Wars, Lord of the Rings or Harry Potter. Sometimes we really have to fight for our own star, for our peace, for our light, especially in does times when a lot of darkness is coming over us. But let me quote Albus Dumbledor from Harry Potter who said:

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

And that is exactly, what we are going to do right know. We turn on a light, we light a candle, we share some luminous memories.



The beginning

Let's start from the beginning with a quote from Yoda the Jedi Master from Star Wars. He said:

“Truly wonderful the mind of a child is.”

James was born on the 1. February 1980, in England. I am quite sure, that his parents Sara and Ranjet were overwhelmed holding little James in their arms. Let's look at some childhood memories that just flicker up. As you all know, James had Sri Lankan roots, because his father was from Sri Lanka. And when James was a boy around nine years old, the family made a trip to Sri Lanka to visit the family. His aunt in Sri Lanka had a dog called Rusty. James instantly fell in love with that dog and wasn't interested in anything else especially not in his aunt or any other family members. Many, many years later, the family returned for another vacation to Sri Lanka, and the only thing that mattered to James was if Rusty to dog was still alive. Well, luckily yes!



James loved sweets. And when his Grandmother came over to their house, she sometimes or always brought a box full of homemade sweets. Each one of the family got one sweet out of that box. The rest of the box with its sweets inside then went into the kitchen, so everybody could get some more of Granny's homemade baking the next day. But... after all the others went to bed, James sneaked into the kitchen grabbed that box and just ate all of the sweets by himself. No sharing with his brothers.



James was also a boy scout. When he was 14 years old, he went for a trip to Sweden. He loved the sense of adventure and the Camping.



"Books! and cleverness? There are more important things — friendship and bravery."

a quote from Harry Potter

The following Memory is from Angie a really close friend. She wrote me:

...in der online-Version ist dieser persönliche Text einer Freundin nicht ersichtlich!

...



James was able to open up hearts. But how? Gandalf from Lord of the rings knows the answer:

"Oh, it's quite simple. If you are a friend, you speak the password, and the doors will open."

Anthony is a friend so please come up here and speak

Anthony's Speech



Summary: So far we could say, James was a Child, he loved Dogs more than aunts, he didn't like to share sweets, he was a brave boy scout, and a computer specialist and above all he was a one of a kind friend.



The Lost

2004 was probably one of the darkest moments in James Life. The moment when his Brother John died in Afghanistan. And I couldn't say it any better than Yoda from Star Wars:

“Wars not make one great!”

And war is nothing else than fear, and fear is as Yoda says:

“... the path to the dark side...fear leads to anger...anger leads to hate...hate leads to suffering.”

And there should be no need for suffering in this world.



Eric N. (Handbells) 

The fight

It was Samwise Gamgee a hobbit in Lord of the rings who joins another hobbit called Frodo on a trip. But Sam, was so much more than just a traveling companion. He was a true friend who said:

“There’s some good in this world, Mr. Frodo... and it’s worth fighting for.”

James was truly a fighter. He wouldn’t turn down a fight. He did not fear any challenge. And he was a bit let’s call it crazy. You all know he was quite into Taekwondo?! But did you know, that he once went into a thing called Hellcamp, to practice Taekwondo. And as the name of the camp says it probably wasn’t heaven there. In 2009 he travelled to Russia to anticipate at the World Champion Ship. Now let’s think about this for a moment. A English Man, with Sri Lankan Roots, travels to Russia, to fight for Switzerland. That’s a bit crazy, isn’t it?! But I guess I just shut up for a moment and let Peter talk about Taekwondo.

Peters Speech



Snowboard

I asked Lea about things James loved. And the answer was: Mountains, Chocolate, Family and Friends. And this is the right order. Mountains always first!

J.K. Rowling wrote in Harry Potter:

“There are some things you can't share without ending up liking each other, and knocking out a twelve-foot mountain troll is one of them.”

Or hanging on a snowy mountain edge somewhere in the middle of the darkness.

Here is a memory of Andy:

...in der online-Version ist dieser persönliche Text eines Freundes nicht ersichtlich!

...

Obi Wan Kenobi said in Star Wars:

"Who's the more foolish...the fool or the fool who follows him?"



...in der online-Version ist dieser persönliche Text eines Freundes nicht ersichtlich!

...



Travel

“Traveling through hyperspace ain’t like dusting crops.”

Han Solo Star Wars

I do not need to mention, that James travelled a lot. He was a globetrotter. He lived and travelled in so many Countries. The past three years he lived in Singapore. One of his favourite trips was to North Korea and his last trip to Sri Lanka was in December 2015. As I said, he was a Globetrotter, it almost seemed that the whole world was his home.



Karaoke

And then there was that thing with Karaoke. James really liked it. And I guess it was his brother Jerry who mentioned, that James surly liked to sing Karaoke, but that he wasn’t really good at it. Gollum from Lord of the rings would have said:

“Not listening!”

Jerry told me such a lot of funny and crazy Stories about his beloved older Brother. But I guess I just be quiet again and let Jerry come up here.

Jerry Poem



Sara

Sometimes I am just speechless. What can I say if a mother loses a son in war, a husband in January and a second son in September? There are just no words. And I never say don't be sad, because I think it's stupid. Losing someone, or even more than one makes us sad. It has to make us sad. Otherwise we weren't humans. And it is so important to be sad, not to push the pain aside. That's the thing about sadness, it demands to be felt. So all I can say is, it's okay to be sad. Because only the ones who know how it feels to be sad, know truly how Happiness feels. Galandriel Lady of Lothlorien said:

**“May the stars carry your sadness away,
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,
May hope forever wipe away your tears,
And, above all, may silence make you strong.”**



Jeremy

Jeremy will grow up without a father. It seems not to be fair. But look around. James left his son so many good people. People like you. Friends and family. You all represent different parts of James. And he left so many of them here. Some of you might teach Jeremy Taekwondo. Some will sing Karaoke with him. Some read Science Fiction and Fantasy Books to him. Some of you will eat sweets with him. Some show him how to snowboard. Some show him the world. So, I am absolutely sure, that Jeremy's life will be so rich and colourful as his Daddy's life was. And he has one of the most amazing Guardian Angel. Or even better, he has three of them. A Grandfather, an uncle and a father-Angel. Best team ever!



Lea

Now it might be a bit unromantic to quote Frodo from Lord of the rings when I am about to talk about Lea. So I do hope you can forgive me for that. But Frodo said right beside the fires of Mount Doom (in German by the way we say Schicksalsberg) to Sam:

“I’m glad to be with you, Samwise Gamgee...here at the end of all things.”

And if James would now stay right next to me he would probably say to you: “I am so glad you were there with me...I loved you till the end...and remember I am not really gone...Remember, the caterpillar said, it’s the end of the world. But it’s just the beginning said the butterfly. So you can find me in every smile of Jeremy, a part of my soul will always reflect in his eyes. And I send you the most colorful butterflies in the world.



Death

As I mentioned earlier, James was a fighter. And I guess every good Fighter probably knows, that you can’t win every fight. James died on the 1. September 2016. He might have lost the fight against Cancer, but he sure did not lose the fight against darkness. No, he himself transformed into light. And light equals eternity, and eternity lives forever.



Thanks

And now, at the end, what is left for me to say? It was a great honour and a privilege to be here today. I apologize for my probably not always proper English, I gave what I could give. At least it truly was English from the heart.

On behalf of the family I would like to thank the Palliativ Care Team from Zofingen for their support.

James was a very generous guy and made a lot of charity. So all of your donations will go either to the Palliativ Care Team or the Rega. Thanks for that.

The urn will travel to the mountain of Titlis, where James Ashes will be scattered. So you know where you can find him when you go Snowboarding.

And afterwards you are all invited to join the Family right across the street in a Restaurant called the Rathausgarten to celebrate the life of James.



Chocolate

But there is one more thing for us to do. As I mentioned earlier, James loved Chocolate. And I think, we honour James the most, if we do something he really liked. So I absolutely volunteered to eat some chocolate for James. But I sure never thought that his most favourite ones are something called Roses. English Chocolate are you kidding me?! This really almost breaks my best-in-the-whole-world-swiss-chocolate heart. But I will do it, for him, I try my first and probably last piece of English Chocolate. But anyway, you can honour him the most if you fight Taekwondo, enjoy your sweets more often, go snowboarding, kitesurfing, sing Karaoke, take a beer bath with a friend, play with a dog, travel around the world, eat Sri Lanken dishes, watch Science Fiction or Fantasy Movies. And if you

see the Skywalker in Star Wars, remember James is now a skywalker too. And what would James the Skywalker say to you:

**“May the force be
with you!”** 

 **Stereophonics “Dakota”** 

Your SchlussLicht

