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**Memorial Special Edition**

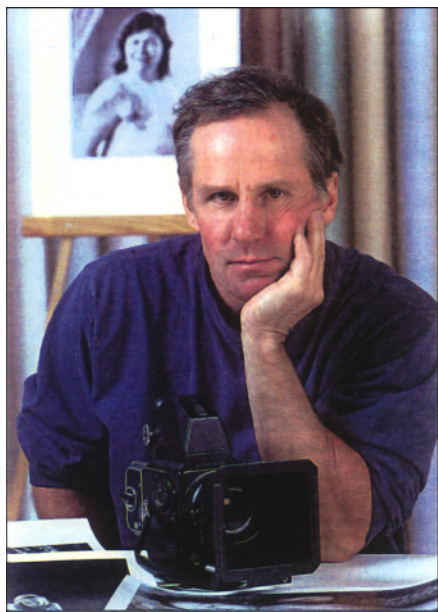
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**The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation***

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## Bidding a Tearful Farewell to Two Legendary Photographers

### Frank Cordelle, 1942-2021



Frank's decades-long portraiture work, "Bodies & Souls: The Century Project," made some absolutely huge strides in Body Acceptance. Even Lee Baxandall quickly took note and invited Cordelle to exhibit a lengthy feature in *N* 13.2. Upon publishing his book, *N* 26.1 had another lengthy article on Cordelle's work and impact.

The April 2021 issue of this newsletter was entirely dedicated to Frank Cordelle, covering his history with Century, his connection to naturism, and NEF's preservation and plans for further exhibition of his work. Frank's obituary is published on the next page.

### Amanda Hickok, 1986-2021



Amanda, the lovely wife of NEF Chair and newsletter editor Doug Hickok, had critical roles on two NEF-related fronts. First was being the most active volunteer at the NEF Research Library. And second, a significant part of her photography business was "boudoir," specializing in boosting Body Acceptance through a fun session and amazing results no matter what age or body type. Each of these contributions will be further recognized in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Together since 2004, and naturists since 2007, she was my whole world and we've had many memorable adventures together. Amanda's obituary is published on page 3.

## Frank Cordelle, 1942-2021

Frank Cordelle, 78, a resident of Hancock and formerly of Bennington, NH, passed away on October 8, 2021 after a period of declining health. He was born in New York City on December 9, 1942, the elder son of Eugene and Else Cordelle, and grew up in New York and New England. He graduated from Mt. Herman School (MA) and earned a degree in Biology from Hamilton College (NY) in 1964.

His fascination with the natural sciences led him to pursue a PhD in Biochemistry at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA but on the verge of completing his doctorate – in fact in the last stages of presenting his thesis – he had an awakening that took his life in a totally different direction: pursuit of his passion for photography. He befriended a doctor who had left a successful medical practice to pursue his love of photography. Frank was inspired to follow his example – he never completed his PhD, but spent the rest of his life exploring his passions and talents, traveling, meeting diverse people, and refining his art.

Frank loved skydiving, which he pursued and taught for several years in Orange MA. He moved to Bennington, NH in the 1970s, where he designed and built his own photographic studio. He got involved in the life of the community, serving on Bennington's school and Zoning boards and was especially active during the ConVal School District's project of upgrading all of its buildings. He continued to develop his photographic and artistic vision, culminating in what would become his legacy photography project – The Century Project.

Frank moved to the West Coast in the mid-90's and traveled extensively to present the exhibit and finalize publication of the "Bodies & Souls: The Century Project" book in 2006.

He moved back to Hancock, NH in 2017 to be with family on the East Coast. He will be remembered with love and pride by his family. In his own quiet way, he enriched the

*[Obituary is written by the family, but edited slightly for space.]*

lives of former neighbors in Bennington and friends in the Monadnock area, some of whom participated in The Century Project.

Judging from numerous notes and letters in his Project files, he also touched the lives of project participants and many exhibit attendees. One example: "A very moving exhibit. It is art like yours that changes the world."

The project was 20-plus years in the making, with the photography exhibits and open discussion forums or guest lectures including Frank's participation (primarily at colleges and universities) starting in 1992 and running through 2012. During that time the Project was exhibited 79 times, with an average of over a thousand viewers for a five day college showing.

Superficially, The Century Project is a chronological sequence of nude female portraits from the moment of birth to nearly one hundred years of age.

But more importantly it served as a springboard for exploration of issues of female self-image, body acceptance, and definitions of beauty – in contrast to cultural, societal and religious stereotypes. The photographs were accompanied by personal statements, written by the participants themselves, about their reasons for and reactions to participating in the project. These commentaries are emotionally revealing and intensely moving; the words and pictures make a very powerful combination.

The Century Project's initial goal was to present an honest and healthy alternative to the air-brushed and one-dimensional ways women are portrayed in the media, but will be remembered as a celebration of and tribute to real women, living in real bodies, shaped and strengthened by their self-awareness and life experiences.

*[Beyond the obituary, Frank was very generous in donating Century to NEF. Not only was this the 2nd largest material donation ever received, but it's a powerful exhibit that NEF hopes to change society with in the future.]*



*[Frank Cordelle and Doug Hickok, May 16, 2020, photo by Amanda Hickok.]*



## Amanda Hickok, 1986-2021

Amanda Marie (Springborn) Hickok, age 35, passed away unexpectedly at MercyOne Medical Center in Dubuque IA on November 18, 2021.

Amanda was born in Milwaukee, WI on March 11, 1986 to Sandra and David Schneider. She was adopted by Roger and Valerie Springborn, and has always considered them her “real” mom and dad.

Amanda graduated from De Soto High School and later from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fennimore WI. While her medical career started as a CNA, she eventually became a Certified Medical Assistant. She worked in a few local clinics, but really enjoyed volunteering at the InHealth Community Wellness Free Clinic in Boscobel WI.

Amanda had a passion for photography which began as a hobby taking wildlife and scenery pictures. This passion grew into her own business, “Hickok Country Photography”, which she expanded to create unique and priceless memories for individuals and families.

*[Obituary is written by the family, but edited slightly for space.]*

Amanda married Doug Hickok, the light of her life, on August 16, 2013 at the little white church on the Wild West Days grounds in Viroqua, WI. She had been an avid supporter and volunteer at the event for 15 years, and fully enjoyed re-enacting as a saloon girl. This past year Amanda was excited to expand her photography business to a new Wild West studio on the grounds. Photographing families there was the highlight of her summer.

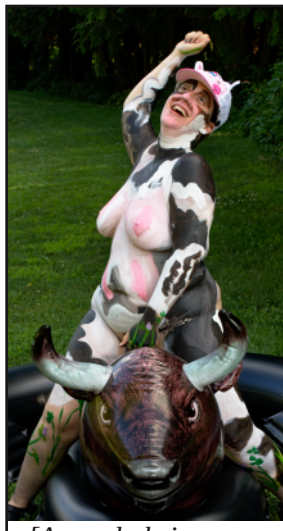
Amanda touched the lives of so many people. You will never find a more loving, caring, compassionate person. She lived her life in service to others, always checking in with family and friends to see how they were doing, and bringing little gifts or treats to make them smile.

One of Amanda’s last gifts was the gift of life. She finalized her life on earth by being an organ donor and giving a new chance of life to at least three others in need.

*[Beyond the obituary, Amanda was a well-known and well-loved naturist ever since we stepped foot on Mazo Beach for the first time in 2007. Travel since 2007 almost always included naturist venues, and we've done our fair share of naturist activism and advocating for body acceptance over the years as well.]*



*[The annual Badger Naturist Halloween party was a favorite, and we often helped with setup and cleanup.]*



*[Amanda brings laughs to everyone.]*



*[Naked Geocaching, led to an interview for the Naturist Living podcast.]*



*[Relaxing at Deep Creek Hot Springs.]*



*[The huge spillway at Duck Egg County Park, usually not naturist friendly.]*

Dear Readers,

*I had the privilege to get to know Frank Cordelle pretty well through numerous phone calls, a weekend with him and his family, and through exploring his archive of Century work that he donated to NEF. Although his passing was expected due to the condition he had, I was still very saddened when I found out. It felt like losing a new best friend.*

*Of course, unexpectedly losing my wife and soul-mate after only 18 years together was absolutely devastating. With her accident on November 10th (and passing on the 18th), the emotions of initial devastation, hope, and eventually sadness are simply indescribable. Easily the worst days of my life.*

*Despite the challenges of 2021, I remain committed to NEF and the larger important issues like Body Acceptance. However, just so you're all aware, the unusual circumstances of Amanda's death have put me on another personal mission as well. The story will be told when the time is right.*

*If my plate wasn't too full already, it is now. I'm in charge of the NEF library and provide all the services associated with that. I'm in charge of preparing the Cordelle collection for exhibits, and probably the logistics of doing them. I lay out and distribute this newsletter, often doing research and writing articles. As Chair of NEF, there are plenty of other responsibilities and tasks that need attention every day. And now, there's plenty of personal matters that need my attention as well – estate matters, an avalanche of paperwork, and gracefully closing/transitioning a business.*

*All I can say is: either bear with me, or offer to help. If you believe strongly in what NEF has been doing, consider becoming more involved to help us achieve the goals of our many projects. Having some interesting contributions in the newsletter, having a second librarian, and having someone help in getting the Cordelle exhibit on the road, would all make for an even more successful 2022.*

Sincerely,  
Doug Hickok, NEF Chair

## We Can't Do It Alone

[Republished from the October newsletter.]

We're seeking a few volunteers for specific tasks. Contact Doug.Hickok@NaturistEducation.org if any of these sound like a good fit.

- ▶ If you're good at MS Office, LibreOffice, or OpenOffice, there's a collection of about 130 single-page stories that need to be converted from old formats to PDF format, and look nice for printing. Our April 2021 newsletter certainly offers a clue about the content, and we'll mail you a free book to help with the effort. Beware that reading these stories can be very difficult at times.
- ▶ A simpler task would be to split up some PDF files into separate files. Old newsletters were scanned on a sheet-fed scanner and came out as one big file. Splitting them and naming them appropriately would be a big help to make them available.
- ▶ If you are within driving distance of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and don't mind spending some weekend time at a library, we definitely have tasks for you.
- ▶ We're seeking someone to identify addresses and do targeted mailings to various places throughout the country. Ideally, that person could also help us finalize the materials being sent too.
- ▶ If you're willing and able to stand up in front of a class and deliver a PowerPoint presentation on naturism, let us know.
- ▶ Beach advocates are always welcome. NAC can help strengthen your user group.
- ▶ Lastly, we want your photos! We could always use photos of nude beaches, and other abstract photos that convey the clothing-optional way of life.