



Raphael van der Weiden

May 8, 1958 - March 10, 2024

Raphael (Raphic) van der Weiden passed away on March 10th, 2024, in Houston, Texas. Raphic was born on May 8th, 1958, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. He was preceded in death by his beloved Mom, Pimette Buijs, and is survived by his wife Alice and his sons Christiaan and Boudewijn.

Raphic grew up in Bussum in The Netherlands, after which he went to Delft University of Technology to graduate in 1983 with a M.Sc. in Electrical Engineering, Theoretical Electromagnetics. He continued his post-graduate studies at Delft University of Technology to attain his Ph.D. in Technical Sciences in 1988.

In August of 1988, he started his Shell career by joining Royal Dutch Shell Exploration & Production Company in Rijswijk, The Netherlands, as a Research Scientist, where he also met his wife, Alice. He enjoyed various jobs for Shell in Assen-The Netherlands, Houston-USA, and Bangalore-India, after which he ended his successful Shell career as a General Manager – Quantitative Subsurface Evaluation, Shell Americas Projects and Technology in Houston. He retired from Shell on July 31st, 2021, after working for 33 years for the company he loved.

Besides running alongside the Buffalo Bayou, after his retirement Raphic enjoyed doing big projects around the house, like cutting trees, demolishing a

50 ft deck, fixing sprinkler systems, and electrical issues. In his own words: projects with a beginning and an end. When his body, because of the cancer, was too weak to do these manual jobs, he returned to his love for physics, electromagnetics, and mathematics and he spent many hours in his home office coding with Python. His latest excitement was his marvel at how much quicker Python could simplify Greens Function for antennas, compared to when he painstakingly did so by hand.

But most of all he enjoyed spending time with his wife Alice and their sons Christiaan and Boudewijn who he loved dearly and who were his pride and joy. Raphic thanked God every day for his family, as they are thankful for every day they had with him.

Raphic was known for his big smile, positive energy, integrity, enthusiasm, attention to detail, go-getter attitude, interest in other people, and a huge work ethic.

He will be laid to rest during a small private burial ceremony on March 23rd, after which there will be a public Celebration of Raphic's Life on March 23rd, 4:30 - 6:30 pm, at the Hyatt Regency, 13210 Katy Fwy, Houston, TX 77079.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Oaks Cemetery

13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 23. 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Hyatt Regency
13210 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall

“ On behalf of Raphic’s group of friends from his student club ‘Delftsch Studenten Corps’ at the University of Delft, we want to share our feelings of sorrow and grief. We give our heartfelt condolences to Alice, Boudewijn and Christiaan.

Our club of 21 members dates to autumn of 1977 when we started our freshman year in Delft. Raphic started in the department of Electric engineering. It shows his versatility and broad interest in scientific topics that he made a career in geophysics and oil & gas reservoirs.

After the University years, we all went different ways and pursued a professional career in or outside of Holland. But every 5 years we would come together and spend a long weekend in an exotic destination somewhere in Europe. No matter the time or distance, Raphic would always join the group, even if it needed a continental journey. The good thing about these get-togethers was the virtual absence of time, we would meet each other and continue where we left off the last time we met. Overall, we did not change and especially Raphic did not change. There were always the ideas bouncing around, he was sharp but likeable in his sincere way. In discussions he was always interested in other views and opinions, optimistic and positive. We are going to miss him.

One way to express our loss was in the traditional way: we published an obituary in the Dutch quality newspaper ‘the NRC’. You see the contribution in the picture below. We summarized what Raphic meant to us and others by “Oprecht, empatisch, optimistisch, begaafd “, translated as “Sincere, empathetic, optimistic, gifted.

Our group of friends came together, last Sunday, on a patch of land owned by one of us, to share some good memories, have a drink and to commemorate Raphic by planting a tree. The tree planted is of US origin and, as assured by the garden shop, it will be nice, wide and tall; an estimated 100 ft.

Our club President presented a moving speech and we toasted to his memory.





Ron Castelein - March 27, 2024 at 12:16 PM

BT

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories*



Brian Tepper - March 27, 2024 at 10:17 AM

TT

“ *Dear Alice, Christiaan, and Boudewijn,*

I am so sorry to hear of Raphic's passing. I had the pleasure of working with Raphic during his time in Houston. He was a brilliant geophysicist and a wonderful human being. His enthusiasm and passion - for both geophysics and life - were infectious.

I am sending so much strength and love to your entire family during this very difficult time.

Tiffany T.

Tiffany Tchakirides - March 27, 2024 at 08:50 AM

EH

“ I remember Raphic for his excellence in geophysics, and his unique ability to explain complex ideas in simple terms. I learned a lot from him during my time at Shell and am saddened by the news of his passing. Prayers for peace and comfort for his family.



Elizabeth Lorenzetti Harvey - March 26, 2024 at 03:20 PM

VZ

“ My deepest condolences to the family.

I will remember Raphic as an inspiring leader especially for his human side. He brought into the business this sense of joy and passion, the energy of a big smile and of a honest and warm laugh. Never afraid to stand up for what he believed it was a right decision. A model of work ethics, dedication and kindness!

Ciao Raphic e che la terra ti sia lieve!

Valentina Zampetti

Valentina Zampetti - March 26, 2024 at 04:42 AM

ED

“ We will all remember Raphic as a great geophysicist and leader, but more importantly, as a great and dignified human being... That will always be the big differentiator. Raphic was kind, honest and a really good person. We both liked to shop at costco. We miss you Raphic. con cariño, Liz & Mario

Elizabeth Diaz - March 25, 2024 at 09:49 AM

HB

“ *Henriette B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.*

Henriette B. - March 24, 2024 at 09:54 AM

SG

“ *Raphic, I will always be grateful for the support you gave me. You were a good man, an example for how to live a decent life. You will live on in the memory of so many of us. Stephan*

Stephan Gelinsky - March 23, 2024 at 04:23 PM

RC

“ *Dear Alice and family,
It's a shocking to know about Raphic's demise at such an early age. I know Raphic for 20+years.
Raphic was an epitome of enthusiasm, perfection, caring and a beautiful soul. Raphic always put his team first and was always there for the team.*

I have very good memories of Raphic at Various conferences and the time we spent in Bangalore.

Our sincere condolences. GOD Bless.

Raghu and Shailaja

Raghu Chunduru - March 23, 2024 at 02:50 PM

UT

“ To Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn, we understand that this is an incredibly challenging time for you. Please lean on me, us, for anything – big or small – that can help lighten your burden.

I have known Raphic since 2005, he was my direct supervisor for 7 years up until his retirement from Shell in 2021.

Raphic left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was my cherished mentor, coach and dear friend.

Known for his exceptional leadership and unwavering support, Raphic played a pivotal role in shaping the lives and careers of many.

He was always full of positive energy, which permeated to everyone around him. Forever inquisitive, he was my inspiration whenever I was stuck.

On many occasions when he and I were discussing complex issues, he would almost always end up asking me “so what?”, meaning you did all this work, how does this work impact the business.

This simple yet profound question "so what" will continue to resonate with me and all who had the honor of working alongside him.

And as we celebrate Raphic's life I now ask the question “so what now?”. His legacy remains with us now, and those of us who had the good fortune of working alongside him, and whose careers he shaped and guided, will continue to ask the question “so what?”

Goodbye dear friend, I will miss you and our conversations....

Uday Tare - March 23, 2024 at 02:36 PM

LG

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,

Also from Helena and Laurens our heartfelt condolences. We both will remember Raphic as one of our most favorite colleagues at Shell. Always positive with a big smile on his face and always genuinely interested in both of us as persons as well as in our projects. We will miss him. All the best in these difficult times, and please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of any assistance.

Laurens Gaarenstroom - March 23, 2024 at 01:35 PM

LG

“ Laurens G. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Laurens G. - March 23, 2024 at 01:25 PM

PK

“ My sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved husband and father.

I have known Raphic throughout my career and the locations we shared. I remember Raphic as an enthusiastic and positive colleague with a lot of interest in people and new ideas.

Paul van der Kooy

Paul van der Kooy - March 23, 2024 at 12:39 PM

IP

“ Iain P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Iain P. - March 23, 2024 at 12:02 PM

HB

“ Huyen B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Huyen B. - March 23, 2024 at 11:14 AM

WE

“ Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,

Our heartfelt condolences with the untimely passing of Raphic, so soon after his retirement, and the loss of a husband and father.

Our paths at Shell crossed multiple times and with several joint endeavors in Rijswijk, Houston and Bangalore, and in various hotels on business trips.

We will remember him as a great, sincere, inspiring and cheerful colleague and friend.

We wish you all the strength in these incredibly difficult times.

Willem & Gerda

Willem Epping - March 23, 2024 at 09:41 AM

DS

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,

Today I learned of the deeply sad news of the passing of Raphic. I worked with Raphic on and off for many years while at Shell. Introducing me to the world of geophysics, I came to know him as a wonderful and remarkably gifted person. Raphic had the ability to lift people up, bring energy in a room and mobilizing people with his practical can-do mentality. He had a genuine deep interest in people. Indeed, a man of truly high standards and strong character.

His work in geophysics was unique and impactful to Shell's business for many years, but perhaps even more impressive was him setting such an example to many others. I remember Raphic as an unassuming very fine and warm person, always available for a quick chat and always with a smile.

I wish you all the strength to cope with this huge loss.

Dirk Smit

Dirk Smit - March 23, 2024 at 08:49 AM

EV

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,

First and foremost I wish you today lots of strength in grieving for Raphic but also celebrating his life.

Raphic has touched many people through his life, either through his care and personal interest or his professionalism and coaching or his unrelenting positive energy and humor. The moments that he inspired me were countless- nothing I could not ask him he was always ready to pick up the next challenge. That positive outlook to life and can do mentality has always been an example for me and many others.

I am so saddened that we have to say goodbye to someone so special so prematurely but Raphic's memory will live on and I am deeply grateful for his legacy.

Again my deepest condolences, we will stay in contact
Edwin

Edwin Verdonk - March 23, 2024 at 06:22 AM

MH

“ I am deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Raphic. Raphic and I met over 30 years ago. Raphic was paranimf at my PhD defense in 1992, and organized an unforgettable evening with dinner and performances by friends afterwards. I have very fond memories of him. Raphic was a great friend, had a warm heart, a very bright mind and an amazing energy. In the early years of our careers, we both worked at KSEPL in Rijswijk, which provided a wonderful research and engineering environment. I will not forget the many discussions we had on a wide range of ideas. We also spent many evenings playing tennis on the courts of Te Werve, trying hard to improve our game. While Raphic continued his path in Shell, I left for academia. These early days together were inspiring, and his friendship left a footprint in my life that will live on.

Maarten de Hoop

Maarten de Hoop - March 23, 2024 at 04:38 AM

HT

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,

My sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved husband and father.

I have known Raphic throughout my career, starting in Assen in the early 90's. I will always remember him as a fantastic energetic and dear colleague, a leader within the community with an incredible positive can do mentality and genuine interest in the people around him.

Ik wens jullie alle sterkte, liefde en steun om dit enorme verlies aan te kunnen.

Henk Tijhof

Henk Tijhof - March 22, 2024 at 07:18 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



March 22, 2024 at 05:01 PM



“ Doi and Malisa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Doi and Malisa - March 22, 2024 at 05:01 PM

“ Lieve Alice, Christiaan en Boudewijn,

Het is voor mij, ruim een week na het bericht van Alice, nog nauwelijks te bevatten dat mijn goede vriend Raphic niet meer onder ons is.

Onze vriendschap stamt uit de tijd dat wij beiden aan het promoveren waren aan de TU Delft, hetgeen in ‘de kringen’ van het Delftsch Studenten Corps toen niet zo gebruikelijk was. Ik bewaar warme herinneringen aan de vele avonden dat wij samen gingen ‘stappen’ in Amsterdam of Rotterdam. Wij hebben toen ontzettend veel gelachen, maar konden ook vrij serieuze gesprekken voeren over de laatste uitdagingen van het promotiewerk en wat we verder in het leven de moeite waard vonden. Een breed palet aan onderwerpen. Het was dankzij Raphic dat ik op een van die avonden, op een vrij nachtelijk uur in de beruchte Oude Herberg, de vrouw ontmoette waarmee ik inmiddels al weer ruim 26 jaar getrouwd ben.

Na onze promoties in 1988 ging Raphic bij het Shell lab in Rijswijk (door hem gewoonlijk aangeduid als Grijswijk), waar hij Alice ontmoette. Ik ging aan de slag bij het lab van de zelfde firma in Amsterdam. Onze kroegentochten werden hierna voornamelijk in die stad voortgezet, bij voorkeur met mijn grachtenbootje wanneer het weer dat enigszins toeliet.

Raphic wilde graag voor Shell naar het buitenland. Enigszins verrassend werd de eerste ‘posting’ toch Assen, waar hij niettemin opgewekt en samen met Alice ging wonen. In die periode waren getuigen op elkaars huwelijk.

Na Rijswijk volgde Houston, Bangalore en weer Houston. Jullie kwamen in de zomer vaak over en dan bij ons langs in Haarlem, waar ik inmiddels met vrouw en kinderen was neergestreken. Daarmee konden wij ook Christiaan en Boudewijn zien opgroeien. De jaarlijkse lengtemetingen staan nog op de muur bij ons op de

gang. Dankzij de nieuwjaarsbrief van Alice bleven wij tussendoor ook goed op de hoogte van jullie belevenissen.

Zo ging dat jaar in jaar uit. Wij zagen elkaar niet zeer frequent, maar het contact voelde altijd direct weer zeer vertrouwd en warm. De band was vanzelfsprekend en, naar wij aannamen, tijdloos. De schok was dan ook groot toen Alice ons afgelopen november berichtte dat Raphic plotseling ernstig ziek was geworden. In een videogesprek dat wij toen hadden was Raphic, zoals altijd eigenlijk, optimistisch en veerkrachtig: "Het was vroeg ontdekt en het beste behandelcentrum van de wereld was om hoek". In ons laatste videogesprek van 3 maart, waren de vooruitzichten minder gunstig, maar je ging moedig voorwaarts met een nieuwe kuur. Je liet mij in de garage de laatste editie van de Porsche Cayenne zien en sprak enthousiast over de mogelijkheden van de SimPy module binnen Python om algebraïsche oplossingen te vinden voor je favoriete 'inverse scattering' problemen. Je prees je zelf gelukkig met Alice, en sprak met bewondering over de wijze waarop zij jou steunde en de logistiek van ziekenhuisbezoeken en medicijnen bewaakte. En je was trots op wat Christiaan en Boudewijn deden.

Ik had het jullie graag gegund om samen oud te worden en te genieten van het leven na het pensioen van Raphic, maar het heeft niet zo mogen zijn. Ik wens jullie de kracht om dit enorme verlies te verwerken en het leven, in de geest van Raphic, energiek en optimistisch voor te zetten. We kunnen niet bij de herdenking in Houston aanwezig zijn, maar ondersteunen graag het plan om dit in mei in Nederland te doen.

Raphic, dank voor de vele mooie herinneringen, je levenslust, toewijding en intelligentie. Je leeft in mijn gedachten verder.

Guus Jansen.

SG

“ Stephan G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Stephan G. - March 22, 2024 at 10:49 AM

AG

“ Aslan Gassiyev purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Aslan Gassiyev - March 22, 2024 at 10:47 AM

AG

“ Aslan Gassiyev planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Aslan Gassiyev - March 22, 2024 at 10:47 AM

HB

“ Dear Alice and family,
I was deeply saddened to learn about Raphic’s illness, and I was truly shocked to hear of his passing. The memories of our last encounter at the Team Christmas Party remain vivid: Raphic appeared younger and happier, and he shared his plans to spend more time with family and become more actively involved in professional volunteering for SEG. As our former GM, he consistently demonstrated hard work and a genuine interest in real-time operational projects that our QSE members involved. Even during challenging times of reorganization and changes, Raphic communicated honestly with the team, sharing both what he knew and what he did not. Thank you very much for your leadership. Raphic’s legacy will forever be etched in my heart. His strong work ethic, his heartfelt conversations about family, and his infectious excitement—especially after retiring—are memories I will cherish. I recall his words during our QSE meetings: “I am aware of the time now...” Indeed, time was too short, and his absence will be deeply felt.
Please accept my deepest sympathy, along with that of my family, for the loss of your wonderful husband and amazing father. May God bless you all and provide comfort during this time of profound sorrow.
Rest in Peace, Raphic...

Huyen Bui - March 22, 2024 at 09:45 AM

MK

“ It is hard to comprehend that a person as energetic, positive, constructive and emphatic is no longer with us. I do have lots of fond memories of the numerous interactions with Raphic over the years, and I vividly remember his firm handshake. I offer my sincere condolences to the family for this incredible loss.

Martin Kraaijveld - March 22, 2024 at 07:59 AM

FA

“ F A. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

F A. - March 22, 2024 at 06:49 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



March 22, 2024 at 06:00 AM

AB

“ Raphic joined KSEPL a couple of years before me, also in rr3. I lived in Amsterdam and he, still single at the time, loved to spend his weekends there. Friday, late afternoons, he always came to my room to seek advise on pubs and brag about his adventures the week before. It was a good carefree time.

When he went to the NAM he started working in our specialty, QI. Many discussions, on the software, the functionality and the bugs, followed. Never negative, always constructive and supportive.

In 2011 we came to work together again, now in Bangalore. Raphic was my boss but he was not a typical boss, it was more working together to tackle the issues typical for Bangalore, with a smile, with optimisme, with some frustration, loads of energy and with a great empathy for staff. Bangalore was not an easy job but working with Raphic made it doable.

After we both left Bangalore the contact reduced to the online discipline meeting and yearly newyears letters.

Until the end of last year when we both got our devastating cancer diagnoses, both with lousy prognosis. We shared our demons, our dealing with the end of infinity. Raphic would not be Raphic if he did not keep telling me to stay positive, which he seemed to be doing better then me. That contact was so valuable for me, a companion in misery.

And then came the devastating news last week.

Often we were told this truth: “You don’t get cancer alone, it affects the whole family, especially the partner”

And you don’t die alone.

Alice and boys, I hope you find comfort in each other and in the knowledge that Raphic meant so much to so many.

Agnès

Agnès van Bruggen - March 22, 2024 at 05:35 AM

“ Even though I was aware of his sickness, the devastating news of Raphic’s passing away came as a huge shock to me. Still find it hard to believe how someone so lively, energetic, and full of life is not among us anymore.

I first met Raphic in 2008 after joining Shell Bangalore as an experienced hire. He has moved there recently as GM for QSE team, and during our first meeting I was amazed to see how curious and genuinely interested he was in understanding what were my expectations and career aspirations in Shell. Even though he himself was in transition to Bangalore at that time, he made sure that I was on my feet as quickly as I can without getting stuck in never ending HR and IT onboarding processes. For most of my Shell career, I have had the privilege to have him as my GM (first in Bangalore and then in Houston) and one thing which stood out for me was his keen eye for technical details and care for people.

As a part of his QSE organization, I always felt that the team had his back no matter what comes our way! He was tactful enough to position the team in the best place to succeed and deal with challenges and at the same time ensured that we were delivering on our promises. Truly a remarkable guy and someone who was (and still is) my role model! I vividly recall my early days in Bangalore, when as a young organization, we had some unique challenges while working with various asset units and Raphic used to be our “go to”, person to help us deal with those. Our mantra used to be, “if you don’t know how to deal with something, talk to the big bald guy in corner office”!

I also count myself among the lucky few who had the opportunity to know Raphic at personal level. My personal interaction with him made me realize that apart from being a technical stalwart and a very competent manager, Raphic was also a very kindhearted, fun-loving person with a strong sense of empathy. I experienced it firsthand when life threw some curved ball at me few years ago, and he went way above and beyond his call of duty to help me find my way and make sure that I get the support that I needed. He always

found time whenever I needed to have a chat and shared his perspective on what he would have done, which invariably started with "If I were you...".

Raphic, I am so fortunate and grateful to have known you and have had the opportunity to work and learn from you. Even though, I still find it's hard to believe that you are not among us, sincere thanks, and gratitude for everything that you did for us, QSE team and Shell. I cherish the memories and learnings from my interactions with you as a leader and an individual and it will continue to be an inspiration for me. Rest in peace and as always keep smiling!

Alice – Shweta and I had privilege to have met you only couple of times and it's hard to fathom the grief that this unimaginable event has brought to you, but please accept our condolences, stay strong and take care yourself and family.

Goodbye!

Mrityunjay & Shweta

Mrityunjay Kumar - March 21, 2024 at 11:43 PM

DB

“ Daniel B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Daniel B. - March 21, 2024 at 05:33 PM

KM

“ Karen M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Karen M. - March 21, 2024 at 05:13 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.*



March 21, 2024 at 04:52 PM



“ *Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,*

Our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your beloved husband and father.

Jim remembers with fondness working with Raphic, especially in Bangalore. He always made time for discussion and a chat.

Wij wensen jullie heel veel sterkte in deze moeilijke tijd. Wij denken aan jullie.

*Liefs,
Vian and Jim*

Jim Gast - March 21, 2024 at 11:56 AM

JS

“ Raphic’s self-confidence gets us out of trouble.

In the mid-90’s on a dark evening in Delft, Raphic and I are driving through the little streets in his Golf GTI. We are stopped by the police. “Sir, your rear light is not working”.

“Impossible”. A typical answer by Raphic van der Weiden, not the least lacking in self-confidence.

We both get out of the car and indeed, one of the lights on the back is not working. So Raphic starts disciplining the light by hitting it hard. Once. Twice. Three times. The light comes back on.

With a stern eye to the poor policeman having had the courage to stop us, we re-enter the car, after which Raphic absolutely floors it, waking up the whole neighbourhood, and jumping us out of reach of the police.

Dear Raphic, thank you for that wise lesson.

Jan Stammeijer

Jan Stammeijer - March 21, 2024 at 10:34 AM

DC

“ Debra C. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Debra C. - March 21, 2024 at 08:43 AM

JE

“ Jack E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Jack E. - March 21, 2024 at 08:22 AM

JS

“ Raphic, he was our 11 year old groomsman on our wedding day in 1969. He later became a student in Delft with his mother Pimette being a driving force. Then working abroad so we saw each other less, but in recent years we got more contact through the family reunions and we were kept informed by your extensive New Year updates, in which you took us into all the experiences of the past year.

This is how we saw Christiaan and Boudewijn grow up and how proud Raphic was of both his sons

We also found the meetings when you were with us precious, in which we had open conversations that mattered and that we look back gratefully

From everything you experienced, the attachment of you as a couple, but also as a family, with love predominating.

The greater the loss, when we dwell on it, we feel sad, together with you.

We look forward to an occasion later in the year in the Netherlands, where we can commemorate Raphic.

We would have preferred to have come to Houston anyway, but Annelies is just over from Canada for her birthday.

In mind we stand around you and continue to pray for God, comfort and strength for the time ahead of you

“We,Il meet again”

Lots of love

Jack and Marieke Strik

jack en Marieke Strik - March 21, 2024 at 08:18 AM

JJ

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan, and Boudewijn,

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your beloved husband and father.

I had the privilege of working under his leadership from 2016 until his retirement. Raphic was such an extraordinary person, a wonderful leader, and a dear friend. His passion, energy, and genuine care for people were admirable. He was a mentor, a coach, and an empathetic leader who always inspired those around him. I learned a great deal from him, and I cannot express enough my gratitude for all the opportunities and guidance he gave me.

Raphic, you will be deeply missed, and your legacy will live forever. Rest in peace, my friend.

Juan Jimenez - March 20, 2024 at 11:53 PM

JJ

“ Juan J. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Juan J. - March 20, 2024 at 11:51 PM

JJ

“ Juan J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Juan J. - March 20, 2024 at 11:51 PM

LJ

“ Love, Brian & Laura Johnson purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Love, Brian & Laura Johnson - March 20, 2024 at 11:02 PM

LJ

“ Love, Brian & Laura Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Love, Brian & Laura Johnson - March 20, 2024 at 11:02 PM

DI

“ Deep Water Development Interpreters purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Deep Water Development Interpreters - March 20, 2024 at 03:28 PM

DI

“ Deep Water Development Interpreters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Deep Water Development Interpreters - March 20, 2024 at 03:28 PM

BT

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories*



Brian Tepper - March 20, 2024 at 09:41 AM

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn, Like many others I am devastated with Raphic's passing. Please accept my deepest condolence. I worked for Raphic in the QSE team from 2015 to end 2016 and also had some further work-related interaction prior to his retirement.

Raphic was a very good and kind man (Raphic supported the extension of my assignment in Houston). I would like to share two memorable interactions i had with Raphic. Upon arriving in Houston mid 2015, i came into the office with my wife and 6mo son to say hello to the team. My curious 6mo son touched Raphics nose during the meet and greet. Whilst my wife and I were a bit embarrassed, Raphic had a beautiful moment with my baby and played with him a little bit, you could tell absolutely that Raphic loved family. As my family left the office, i remember saying to myself this is the kind of person i want to work for. Till date i consider my time in his team as best of my Shell career.

Much later during my assignment- I had a beautiful intellectual conversation about SPACE/NASA with Raphic. Raphic told me how he marveled at the apparent simplicity of the Rocket shells used for the early space missions. He said, it must have taken extraordinary mindset for anyone to believe that those rocket shells will make it to space and back.

We will miss Raphic's smile, laugh and easygoing persona. May his kind soul Rest in Peace. Adieu

Justin Ugbo

Mr J Ugbo - March 20, 2024 at 09:30 AM

MJ

“ Mr J. planted a grove of 50 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Mr J. - March 20, 2024 at 08:05 AM

KS

“ Dear family of Raphic.

In 2016 my assignment with Shell Brunei came to an end, at a time when Shell was heavily reducing staff. Finding another job was next to impossible. Arriving to work one Monday morning, 2 days before the packers were supposed to come to my house, and 9 days prior to what was supposed to be my last day in Shell – I find an email from Raphic in my inbox, with a one-liner to call him asap. I did not know Raphic at the time, but that day was the beginning of a close working relationship over the coming 3 years. Basically Raphic offered me a job and without exaggerating, saved my family and I from going into unemployment. I will forever be endless grateful for Raphic and his professional attitude, something I expressed to him several times. His support was always strong and it is therefore with deep sadness I received the devastating news of his passing. I wish the family strength and may he rest in peace.

Kolbjørn Schjølberg.

Kolbjørn Schjølberg - March 20, 2024 at 02:47 AM

PD

“ Worked Closely with Raphic and had lot of conversations (Office and Personal). In my difficult times he flew over from Houston to my place to support me in Person. He is such a great person to the team in Bangalore and always stay connected and taken care of us. It is had to believe he has gone to the better place. My Condolences to the family members and friends. We miss you Raphic.



PRAKASH D - March 20, 2024 at 02:40 AM

KH

“ Although I didn't work closely with Raphic, I was fortunate enough to share a little time with him recently. I am saddened by his very quick demise and passing, my thoughts are with you Alice and your family, We can not be in attendance at the ceremony this weekend but will make a contribution to PANCAN - the pancreatic cancer support charity.

keith HUNT - March 19, 2024 at 05:26 PM

AH

“ Anna H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Anna H. - March 19, 2024 at 03:51 PM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



March 19, 2024 at 03:16 PM

KJ

“ Ken Lojo, Strake Jesuit planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Ken Lojo, Strake Jesuit - March 19, 2024 at 03:16 PM

RM

“ Mary and I were lucky to become Raphic's good friend a little more than two years ago. We so strongly wish that we could enjoy many more years of his friendship. All of the reflections from his friends and professional colleagues ring 100% true.

Raphic was an exceptionally positive and happy person. That was a gift to us and I'm sure to the many who feel just as we do.

We were blessed to have the opportunity to recently visit with Raphic and Alice. His courageous perspective was both humbling and inspiring. Raphic will always be in our hearts.

Rex and Mary Martin - March 19, 2024 at 02:29 PM

MB

“ Lieve Alice, Christiaan en Boudewijn, Woorden schieten tekort met het overlijden van Raphic.... Uiteraard kende ik hem niet heel goed maar toch zagen we elkaar ieder jaar en was hij een van de aardigste, geïnteresseerdste en vriendelijkste personen die ik ken. En kan ik me geenszins een voorstelling maken hoe groot het gemis voor jullie zal zijn. Ik wens jullie dan ook heel veel sterkte en liefde toe in deze tijd! Ik denk aan jullie. Heel veel liefs Marielle

Marielle Berben - March 19, 2024 at 02:25 PM

JD

“ Jan D. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Jan D. - March 19, 2024 at 02:09 PM

MB

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,
Our sincere condolences to the loss of your husband and father.
Raphic was a beautiful and special person. I have fond memories of him. I shared some group pictures with all his collegians.
Take care of each other in this difficult time.
Peter and Marjan Batenburg

Marjan Batenburg - March 19, 2024 at 11:46 AM

AC

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan, and Boudewijn,
My sincere condolences to you for your loss. Raphic was a special person who I enjoyed knowing throughout my career at Shell. He was my first manager when I joined Shell in the US, and while we had many conversation about why an operations geophysicist would be in his QI group, he fully supported me as I learned the ways of Shell and he was always interested in what I was doing, even if I was embedded in the operations group, with him as my functional line manager. That year (2006) was the only time I worked for Raphic but every time I saw him in his various jobs and capacities, he would always take the time to catch up with what I was doing. His energy and joy in his work and in his life was always an amazingly positive experience. Regards, A.J. Cozzens

Austin Joe Cozzens - March 19, 2024 at 11:01 AM

LM

“ I always look up to Raphic as an approachable, trustworthy, and candid mentor who offered me insightful advice, a great leader who takes genuine interest and instill positivity in people.

The first time I met Raphic was when he was about to leave Houston for his assignment in Bangalore Technology Center (and not long after I joined the then EPTS/QSE team as a new graduate). I remember Raphic's firm handshake and his palpable ability to bring energy and positivity people around him.

Some years later we would bump into each other over the coffee machine on D4 from time to time, and Raphic would genuinely ask me about project, life, and family.

I saw Raphic recently over the 2022 IMAGE Conference, and I enjoyed his firm handshake again! He was passionate about staying engaged with his community and continuous learning even after retirement! We caught up on how he enjoys his life after Shell, and he even mentioned the installation incident of his condo... we stayed in touch through emails since.

The last time I saw Raphic in person was last June shortly after he returned from a family trip – He was energetic and vibrant as always! A few months later after Thanksgiving, I saw his email on the diagnosis of cancer, and his last email in early February on the undesirable surprise which was even more devastating. But Raphic always kept a positive attitude and was in good fighting spirit, which is incredibly inspiring!

Raphic, I am so grateful I have met you and have benefited from interactions with you. May you rest in peace!

Dear Alice, Christiaan, and Boudewijn, please accept my deepest condolences.

-Long Ma

Long Ma - March 19, 2024 at 09:59 AM

LM

“ Long M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Long M. - March 19, 2024 at 09:48 AM

GK

“ 5 files added to the album Memories



Gerd Kleemeyer - March 19, 2024 at 09:08 AM

GK

“ I first met Raphic in '96 when he joined NAM's QI team in Assen. Raphic showed a genuine interest in my work as (junior) processing geophysicist and we quickly developed a strong and lasting partnership. His unwavering positivity and energy were remarkable, I usually came out of our countless discussions with new motivation, fresh ideas and always with a smile. Raphic rescued my first presentation at a Shell Conference in Bellaire, where we had to present slides on too widely spaced parallel overhead projectors, a task that was impossible without assistance. Raphic suggested to work as one team, assisting each other despite our individual talks. So we rearranged our slides and went ahead, with Raphic at my side things simply couldn't fail. A few years later Raphic bought my Volkswagen Golf, obviously not without an extended test drive (during which he lamented the narrow roads) and a forensic examination of the car by a specialist (when we jointly discovered its history). Later in Rijswijk, we often met during Raphic's visits from Bangalore and Houston. Early in the morning, Raphic was usually already in full swing with no signs of a jetlag. I always cherished our chats before his busy agenda for the day began. When I became Skillpool Manager, I witnessed first-hand Raphic's compassion for his team and the people he worked with. In the Geophysical Leadership team, Raphic was a tireless advocate for improvement and never hesitated to speak up when needed. Raphic remains a role model for all of us, his integrity, energy and passion, willingness to learn and exceptional knowledge are hard to surpass.

Dear Alice, Boudewijn and Christiaan, my heartfelt condolences wishing you strength in the time ahead. I will deeply miss Raphic and will forever remember him as a brilliant and extraordinary colleague.

Gerd Kleemeyer

Gerd Kleemeyer - March 19, 2024 at 09:01 AM

IA

“ Raphic, thanks for all the friendship over many years. We first got to know each other in Assen in 1996, worked together in many different roles and became good friends. Vividly remember you for your positive energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to help others. You leave behind some beautiful memories and missing you already. Thanks for everything and rest in peace my dear friend.

Alice, Christiaan & Boudewijn leef heel erg met jullie mee en wens jullie veel sterkte in de komende periode.

Ibbel Ansink

Ibbel Ansink - March 18, 2024 at 07:25 PM

JE

“ Jan E. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Jan E. - March 18, 2024 at 05:26 PM

CE

“ Dear family and friends. It is with great regret that I heard of Raphic's passing away. I have nothing but fond memories of him since the day we both started in Shell in 1988, and will remember Raphic for his energy, his contagious laugh and his comradery. What a sad loss. I wish you strength in this difficult time. Kind regards, Cees van Eden

Cees van Eden - March 18, 2024 at 03:49 PM

MK

“ Dear Alice, Christiaan, and Boudewijn,
I extend my heartfelt condolences to you during this difficult time. The news of Raphic’s passing has left a profound impact, and I share in your sadness.
Raphic’s influence on my career at Shell was remarkable. From inspiring me with his engaging presentation style about QI and the Promise-tool at NAM to providing guidance as a GM, he played an essential role in shaping my professional journey. His commitment to learning, especially as a PTE, further exemplified his dedication. Despite the ever-changing roles, my work-related connection with Raphic remained steadfast. Even though I never had the opportunity to collaborate physically in the same office, his unwavering support was something I could always rely on. My recollection of Raphic during a dinner in Houston in 2019 paints a vivid picture. His enthusiasm for QI topics, combined with the impromptu formulas drawn on the paper-covered table, encapsulates the essence of his passion. These memories will forever be cherished.
Raphic was not only exceptional to me but to many others as well. His legacy will continue to inspire those who had the privilege of knowing him.
Once again, my deepest sympathies for your great loss. May you find solace in the memories from Raphic.

Maren Kleemeyer - March 18, 2024 at 12:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



March 18, 2024 at 11:32 AM

PB

“ As the first manager of the QI Geophysics team in Shell Bangalore, he was one of the architects to make the young starts of Shell Bangalore visible in the Shell world and subsequently helped most of us to shape our career. As many people already mentioned, he was a man with a big smile, accessible anytime and ready to help others with his valuable advice. He was a living start in the Shell Geophysics community. Rest in Peace, Raphic!

Prahlad Basak - March 18, 2024 at 11:09 AM

PG

“ I got to know Raphic in my last assignment at Shell as a QI geophysicist for the Deepwater, sitting alongside his QI organization and working closely with them. I was truly shocked and saddened to learn of his passing. I will always remember Raphic's booming voice, big smile and boundless enthusiasm. He will be greatly missed. May he rest in peace.

Paul Gary - March 18, 2024 at 11:00 AM

BT

“ I will miss Raphic for always being open and honest.

Bart Tichelaar - March 18, 2024 at 10:59 AM

MM

“ I have worked with Raphic in the early 2000's, first in Houston and then 'across the pond' from Rijswijk. After I left the QUEST team for Qatar we occasionally crossed paths, but when I moved back to Houston that became more regular. As others have commented he was always friendly and helpful. His door was always open and he was keen to give (good) advise, or just listen. Though he had already retired from Shell, it is a big shock to know he is no longer around. But his memory will live on!

Matthijs van der Molen - March 18, 2024 at 10:58 AM

KO

“ Kostia purchased the Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Kostia - March 18, 2024 at 10:56 AM

KO

“ Kostia planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Kostia - March 18, 2024 at 10:56 AM

ZY

“ Zhaohui Yang purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Zhaohui Yang - March 18, 2024 at 10:45 AM

ZY

“ Zhaohui Yang planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Zhaohui Yang - March 18, 2024 at 10:45 AM

CB

“ It is hard to believe that Raphic has already left us. We are so sad to have lost you. Raphic has been a great inspiration to my professional life in Shell. His positivity, energy level, and rigor in technical work has impressed me a lot. It was always a challenge to get to his early morning meetings but he always managed to wake us up with your loud voice and sharp questions. Aside of work, I have enjoyed discussing geophysics with Raphic and learnings from him. He is a great guy, treating everyone with respect, kindness but also challenging fair and square. It was a great honor to know him and have worked with him for a good part of my Shell life.

Best Regards,

Chen B.

Chen Bao - March 18, 2024 at 10:19 AM

RA

“ Raphic was always one my "technical heroes" as I grew up in Shell. I always found him to be a very bright, warm, and kind person who always left me feeling positive, anytime we met. It is a true shock to learn he has gone at such a young age and I send my deepest and heartfelt condolences to his family who must miss him desperately. Rest in peace, Raphic and thank you for your support over the years.

Ross Abernethy - March 18, 2024 at 09:01 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



March 18, 2024 at 09:00 AM

TB

“ *Ton B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.*

Ton B. - March 18, 2024 at 09:00 AM

AJ

“ *I will always remember Raphic as a man with a big voice and a big heart. Our many conspiratorial conversations on how to make Shell a better place. His support for me in my own career. Bless you friend, you will be missed.*

Alan Jackson - March 18, 2024 at 08:31 AM

KB

“ *Raphic interviewed me and when I joined Shell soon became my supervisor. He was a passionate geophysicist but also passionate about life. He was always encouraging and a genuinely warm person. We had several conversations about northwest Florida where I had relatives when my kids were young and I know where he enjoyed the blue waters and white sands. He will be missed but remembered fondly in our hearts.*

Kevin Bradford - March 18, 2024 at 07:39 AM

JG

“ *1 file added to the album Memories*



Jeroen Goudswaard - March 18, 2024 at 06:01 AM

MO

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Raphic passing away. He was an incredibly passionate and hard working colleague and one of the nicest leaders I've come across anywhere, but what I remember most fondly is his friendly smile. He was such a positive guy with authentic care for his colleagues and people in general. I wish his family and friends strength in dealing with this loss. Rest in Peace.
Morten and Dani

Morten - March 18, 2024 at 04:48 AM

AK

“ Deeply saddened about Raphic's passing away. He has been a great supervisor, motivator, technical discussion partner, and energizer to me, and probably the most authentic and honest leader I have had in Shell. Recht door - recht aan, always calling 'a spade a spade'. Despite the 7hr time difference and face-to-face get togethers small in number, life with Raphic in the QSE department has been an intense and memorable experience. So sad you are not with us any longer, we will miss you Raphic.

Andreas Kirchner - March 18, 2024 at 04:38 AM

PD

“ My deepest and heartfelt condolences to Raphic's family.

I met Raphic as a client and from our first meeting I realised that he was a very energetic, intelligent, passionate but most importantly kind person. I still remember the day he rushed into our office - that of a start-up full of geeks - carrying his bag pack and ready to absorb all the equations we had to throw at him. I also remember the warm words of support he gave me whenever things were not going according to plan.

Raphic, rest in peace, you will be missed.

Panos Doulgeris - March 18, 2024 at 02:43 AM

“ *Mijn vriendschap met Raphic dateert vanaf de middelbare school in Bussum. Na de middelbare school zijn we beiden in Delft gaan studeren, waar we gedurende onze studenten tijd roommates waren.*

Ondanks de afstand tussen onze woonplaatsen (Assen viel nog wel mee, maar Bangalore en Houston was toch iets verder weg) zagen we elkaar gemiddeld 2 a 3 keer per jaar en we belden elkaar met grote regelmaat. Decennia lang zijn wij een constante factor in elkaars leven geweest.

Niet lang geleden werd bij Raphic een ernstige ziekte vastgesteld. De prognose voor deze ziekte is in het algemeen slecht, maar in zijn specifieke geval leek het aanvankelijk niet onmogelijk om te herstellen. Ondanks de telkens kort op elkaar volgende ziekenhuis bezoeken, de chemo's, de onvermijdelijk twijfel of het wel goed zou komen, bleef je een positieve instelling houden. Sterker nog, jij was degene die ernstig ziek was maar je bleef oprecht geïnteresseerd in andere mensen. En dit kenmerkte jou. Je was je hele leven lang oprecht, je was loyaal en speelde geen spelletjes, je was geïnteresseerd en dacht mee met anderen en zo nodig kwam je met advies. Je was integer, authentiek en likeable. Zo stond je in het leven en was als mens alom geliefd. In de eerste en belangrijkste plaats uiteraard bij je eigen gezin. En daarnaast bij vrienden, collega's en de velen die jou gekend hebben.

Voor mij was je 50 jaar lang mijn beste vriend. Wij hebben in deze jaren "duizenden" gesprekken gevoerd en vooral in onze jonge jaren, veel dingen samen ondernomen. Onze vriendschap is altijd blijven bestaan en ik denk niet dat wij dat zo bijzonder vonden. Het was min of meer een natuurlijke vanzelfsprekendheid. Dat niets vanzelfsprekend is, bleek 10 maart. Vanaf die dag kan ik onze vriendschap alleen nog maar herdenken. Nieuwe beelden zullen er helaas niet meer bijkomen. Het is een voorecht dat ik jou mijn beste vriend heb mogen noemen. Je was een fantastische vriend en mens. Ik zal je enorm missen.

Ik had Raphic en zijn gezin zo graag gegund dat zij hun leven, zoals zij dat kenden, nog jaren hadden kunnen voortzetten. Toch nog totaal onverwacht, is Raphic ons allen helaas ontvallen.

Een troost is dat Raphic in staat is geweest zijn leven te leiden zoals hij dat graag wilde. Zowel zijn gezinsleven alsmede zijn omgang met vrienden en zijn professional life.

Voor Raphic betekende Alice, Boudewijn en Christiaan alles. Zij vormden een liefdevol harmonieus gezin, waarin Raphic, onvermijdelijk, zeer gemist zal worden. Maar de spirit van Raphic, de manier van leven van Raphic en alles wat hij de jongens heeft geleerd gaan niet verloren.

Ik wens Alice en de jongens heel veel kracht om dit verlies te verwerken.

Rust zacht, mijn vriend. Thank you for all the memories.

Henk Slokker

Henk Slokker - March 17, 2024 at 04:17 PM

JH

“ *I was very sad to hear that Raphic passed away. We joined Shell around the same time in Rijswijk and I always much enjoyed our technical and other discussions. Raphic's energy was unlimited which was clearly visible in our many, very enjoyable tennis games. I wish Alice and their sons all the strength in these difficult times.*

Juun van der Horst - March 17, 2024 at 05:32 AM

HP

“ Raphic joined Shell in Rijswijk a few years after me, and our paths crossed on countless occasions until my retirement in 2019. The many heartfelt words already written by other friends and colleagues are truly moving and portray the Raphic I knew so well. For me he has always stood out as a man characterized by integrity, selflessness, passion, dedication, honesty, openness, and a great sense of humor. With his unparalleled intensity of purpose he filled any room with his presence but without domineering and always remaining modest. In my mind he lives on as a colleague spreading knowledge and joy. Alice, I wish you and your family the strength to bear your tragic loss. Raphic always gave everything he had and I hope that in your memories he will continue doing so.
Hans Potters, Doorn, NL.

Hans Potters - March 17, 2024 at 05:00 AM

PN

“ Raphic was an excellent leader who strived to bring the best out of every individual. My association with him in Bangalore was memorable. I pray his soul rests in peace

Pratap Nair - March 17, 2024 at 03:12 AM

MA

“ Raphic was one of my favorite bosses. He was a kind a sensitive mentor. My heart breaks for his family. Rest in Peace my friend.
Mary Kievit

mary - March 16, 2024 at 07:39 PM

TF

“ *The Matassa Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.*



The Matassa Family - March 16, 2024 at 07:34 PM

GH

“ *I am very sad to hear of Raphic's passing. I have many fond memories from my interactions with him during my years at Shell. My deepest sympathies to the family.*

Greg Hester - March 16, 2024 at 07:00 PM

DS

“ *Raphic was a great friend and colleague. He was always inquisitive and supportive and an all-around great person. I miss his smile and enthusiasm when we would meet at a conference or Shell engagement.*

Given the many remembrances of Raphic here and on LinkedIn, it is not difficult to realize that he was a fantastic role model and typifies what it is to be a friend.

A loss indeed...

All of my condolences to his family.
Dan

Dan Schwartz - March 16, 2024 at 06:27 PM

“ Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn,

The description “Raphic was known for his big smile, positive energy, integrity, enthusiasm, attention to detail, go-getter attitude, interest in other people, and a huge work ethic” couldn’t have captured him better.

We have experienced that from the moment he and I (Bastian) met for meetings in the early nineties at the Shell Research lab to the nine years he and I worked together in Houston and Bangalore, half of which him being my boss. Starting in Houston, then in Bangalore, and later during our further overlap in the US, Mieke and I have enjoyed becoming good friends with Raphic and you, Alice, and seeing the two of you, Christiaan and Boudewijn, growing into young men. Even though our last face-to-face meeting has been over eight years ago, you have been part of our stable network of friends that we cherished, irrespective of the distance apart. We are extremely grateful for that, probably more than you realize.

Following Raphic’s illness, while being aware of the seriousness, reading about his sudden passing away was devastating. Our hearts broke for the three of you. In all our phone conversations over the years, each time he made it abundantly clear that the three of you were indeed his biggest pride and joy and that he was grateful to God for every day with you three.

We can’t even imagine how you’ll miss him, already knowing the feeling of loss in our hearts. He is leaving behind many great memories and stories, and over time those will warm your hearts (and we hope to share some of them face-to-face in the future, where the word India will come up a lot ...). But especially for the weeks and months ahead we pray that God will give you strength, comfort, and peace to go on, knowing that your husband and father loved you more than anything and, on top of that, had touched the lives of many more around him!

We love you guys!

Bastian & Mieke (Blonk)

Bastian & Mieke Blonk - March 16, 2024 at 04:36 PM

HF

“ *I heard the sad news about Raphic three days ago and I am struggling to come to terms with it. He always radiated so much positive energy and enthusiasm, with everything did - which makes the sad news even harder to comprehend.*

My first contact with Raphic was in 1990, on a quest to buy a new PC. We then worked alongside in Geophysics for more than 30 years. Sometimes in the same team, like in Assen or the Geoscience Leadership Team, at other times in different parts of the world, but never more than a phone call away and when we then met, it was always so easy to continue our conversation, even if we had not seen each other for months: He was not only a brilliant and inspiring geophysicist with an extraordinary work ethic, but also a great people person who brought out the best in people.

The way he spoke about his Alice and his sons was a testimony to his unconditional love for his family.

It is a privilege to have shared time with Raphic and to have been part of his much too short journey, a privilege for which I am grateful.

I will miss him.

Alice, I wish you and your family all the strength, support and love you need to cope with this tragic loss.

Helmut

Helmut Friesacher - March 16, 2024 at 09:27 AM

AK

“ Andre Irene Leon en Jeannine de Kuijper purchased the *A Full Life for the family of Raphael van der Weiden*.



Andre Irene Leon en Jeannine de Kuijper - March 16, 2024 at 08:58 AM

AK

“ Andre Irene Leon en Jeannine de Kuijper planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Andre Irene Leon en Jeannine de Kuijper - March 16, 2024 at 08:58 AM

MB

“ M. B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

M. B. - March 16, 2024 at 05:25 AM

SB

“ I was very saddened to hear about Raphic's untimely passing away, and want to convey deep condolences to all his family. Having worked in P&T together, there were many occasions when I interacted with him, especially related to technical data initiatives. It doesn't surprise me that he took on to Python and found it useful. One of my fond memories is inviting Raphic to the Shell Diwali celebration at WCK. Having worked in India, he was supportive of diversity and open minded of different cultures. His fine leadership, and professional demeanor will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Sushma Bhan - March 15, 2024 at 11:49 PM

AH

“ Receiving Alice’s message about Raphic’s passing away was a great shock and it is with great sadness that I write my contribution to his obituary.

Raphic was one of the most pleasurable students to supervise his PhD research. In 1988 this research led to the defense of his thesis: “Boundary integral equations for the computational modeling of three-dimensional steady groundwater flow problems”. In this research, carried out at my TUDelft Laboratory of Electromagnetic Research, Department of Electrical Engineering, the environmental aspects of this project were covered by the expertise of my colleague from the Ground Water Management division of the Department of Civil Engineering. Raphic’s pleasant personality proved to be an excellent instrument to ensure that this cooperation was a scientific success.

Raphic continued his professional career as an exploration geophysicist with Shell.

I consider it a privilege to have stayed in contact with him and his family, and enjoyed that he paid us an occasional visit when in NL.

Annelies’ and my thoughts are with Alice, Christiaan and Boudewijn, whom Raphic loved so dearly.

Aad & Annelies

*Adrianus T. de Hoop
Lorentz Chair Emeritus Professor TUDelft*

Adrianus T. de Hoop - March 15, 2024 at 06:17 PM

TO

“ Lieve Alice, Boudewijn en Christiaan,

Dank voor jouw bericht en verwijzing naar de site van Raphic. Jullie laten daarop een mooie foto van hem zien met de vrolijkheid en standvastigheid die hem zo typeren.

Voor ons is een aankondiging via internet nog niet zo gebruikelijk en 'anders' dan een overlijdenskaart per post. USA is wat dat betreft verder en moderner. Ook wij vinden het jammer dat er geen live stream mogelijk is. Het zou mooi zijn als jullie van het afscheid enige beelden op film zouden kunnen vastleggen.

In gedachten zijn wij bij jullie, zeker op 23 maart. Wij hopen dat het afscheid van Raphic in kleine kring in zijn geest plaats vindt met alles waar hij voor stond en hard voor heeft gewerkt. Mochten jullie besluiten in de tweede helft van mei in Nederland een samenzijn te organiseren met verhalen uit het leven van Raphic, dan zijn wij daar graag bij.

Voor jou, Boudewijn en Christiaan alle goeds gewenst. Sterkte met alle zaken die nu geregeld moeten worden. Het kan niet anders dat jullie nu veel steun aan elkaar hebben.

Hopelijk treffen wij elkaar in Nederland en kijken we samen terug op het leven van Raphic. Ik weet zeker dat wij daarover meerdere mooie verhalen over hem kunnen vertellen en zo een blijvende en mooie herinnering aan zijn jeugd en studie in Nederland levend houden.

*Liefs en hartelijke groet,
namens onze familie (van Ton sr),*

Ton

Ton - March 15, 2024 at 04:10 PM

CH

“ Caroline H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Caroline H. - March 15, 2024 at 02:14 PM

CH

“ this is really sad news. A selfish thought: one would wish people so lively, honest and considerate to be around much longer. I have met Raphic on one of his first days with Shell in Rijswijk - always up for an in-depth technical discussion but also with a genuine interest in people around him. And then there was the subject of 'cars' - when I left for Malaysia he bought my Golf GTI, a fast car for its time, and was still running it when I returned after 5 years.

Erg treurig dat hij het leven niet langer kon genieten. Sterkte met dit grote verlies.

Christian Höcker - March 15, 2024 at 01:21 PM

GF

“ Gottfried Tiller and family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Gottfried Tiller and family. - March 15, 2024 at 12:10 PM

MV

“ Lieve Alice, met oprechte deelneming wil ik jpu en de jongens condoleren met het plotselinge overlijden van jullie Raphic. Wat intens triest en we leven met jullie mee. We wensen jou en de jongens veel sterkte om dit grote verlies te verwerken. En hopen dat jullie de vele mooie herinneringen samen kunnen koesteren en vasthouden. 🙏 Mariet en Jan-Pieter Verhoef Cohen

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen - March 15, 2024 at 11:59 AM

ZA

“ I shared an office with Raphic whist working Alaska exploration in 2012, he truly was a technically inquisitive geophysicist! I remember when we finalized our work on this one prospect, he said to me “I need to leave this team before this well is drilled”, his way of saying he didn't like the prospect. Throughout the years we had many technical conversations, but some of our best conversations were about cars as be both owned the same brand. You will be missed my friend.

Ziad Ahmadi - March 15, 2024 at 11:48 AM

MH

“ It is with such regret to hear of the passing of Raphic. My deepest condolences to his family.
Raphic was a force of nature, a geophysical whirlwind or seismic wave that translated into an energetic character with such passion. His work ethic and professionalism with such an approachable style made him a well known, well trusted friend that we will all surely miss.

Mark Harvey

Mark Harvey - March 15, 2024 at 11:43 AM

TM

“ *Raphic was a great colleague, neighbour and friend to Pa and myself. His skills were often critical in our projects and his energy and enthusiasm and love of his family was always visible to everyone who knew him. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Alice and the boys. Pa and Tom*

Tom McAlister - March 15, 2024 at 11:38 AM

SN

“ *Raphic was always there when I needed help and he always tried his best to make things better. His enthusiasm, sincerity, and character left an indelible mark on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. We will miss him dearly, but his legacy will continue to inspire us.*

Simon Newton - March 15, 2024 at 11:03 AM

JV

“ *Very sad news. I have most fond memories of Rafic during the time he was my fellow GM in SGS. Always cheerfull, optimistic and CAN DO. Rafic was a geophycisisit with a heart for Geomatics. Rafic will be missed. Ik wens de familie veel sterkte met dit grote verlies.*



Jack Verouden

jack verouden - March 15, 2024 at 10:52 AM

KH

“ *Raphic was a lively person, great for discussions on politics and with a good sense of humour. When I got to know him, he was working in Geophysical Research and it was the privilege of the author of a piece of geophysical software to come up with an acronym of up to 6 letters for his creation. Initially these acronyms were rather dull (MIG23D for Migration in 2 or 3 Dimensions) but later on these acronyms became more frivolous. Real efforts were made to come up with exotic abbreviations. Raphic surpassed many when he came up with the name MENHIR for his software: Multiple Elimination is Not Hard If you use Reciprocity. Far-fetched indeed, but impressive.*

Ik bewaar warme herinneringen aan Raphic en wens de familie sterkte met dit grote verlies.

Kees Hornman

Kees Hornman - March 15, 2024 at 09:12 AM

WW

“ At the end of 1999, NAM proposed Raphic to me as an expat for the quantitative interpretation team that I had just started for the new Deepwater organization. At that time, I knew Raphic only by name but his reputation was already strong. The rest is history. Moving him to Houston a few months later turned out to be the best staff decision I ever made. Through his outstanding technical expertise, his incredibly hard work, and perhaps even more importantly his great empathy towards staff, he was instrumental in creating a very successful department of technical experts of which he himself became the leader years later.

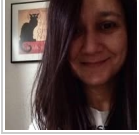
Raphic struck a balance in motivating his staff to perform at their best, while always providing support and looking out for their needs. Through his mastery of constructive challenge, he made these years some of the best for many of us.

Off-work, I am proud to say, we became friends, resulting in so many fond memories spending time with him, Alice and the boys. His optimism and enthusiasm were contagious, making him such a great person to be around. Whether deeply technical, political, or just about anything in life, I miss our always happy conversations and I can't believe not to see you again.

You made the world a better place my friend.

Lieve Alice, wat een verschrikkelijk verlies. Ik wens jou en de kinderen heel veel sterkte in dit intense verdriet.

Wim Walk - March 15, 2024 at 07:18 AM



“ *Raphic was a great geophysicist, with an enthusiastic approach on learning new things. It is difficult to believe that he is gone and I am sure he will be deeply missed by all of us. He will always be in my good memories from Woodcreek. My sincere condolences to his family and friends.*

Mila Oliveira - March 15, 2024 at 06:14 AM



“ *So sad to hear that Raphic passed away. I have fond memories of my first days in Shell research where Raphic was always ready to help a new researcher with good advice, patience and dedication - beautiful traits he never lost in his distinguished career. Raphic, you will be missed! Martin Stäuble*

Martin Stäuble - March 15, 2024 at 05:45 AM

GO

“ Raphic (or: Rafiki) means "friend" in Swahili and that is exactly what Raphic was - a great friend to have had for so many years. Said in the corporate language of our times, he gave challenge and support - he could tell me when he thought something I did was not good (and be right about that), but also was prepared and in fact volunteered to help in countless ways. He was a pleasure to have a conversation with, always generously sharing his actually valuable insights on the stockmarket, books to read, company gossip and many other things - but also genuinely able listen to what was keeping me busy. On a light note, one early piece of advice which I regrettably ignored was not to use cheap shampoos, because they would make you lose your hair!

Raphic was indeed quite a character, always dressed like the gentleman he was - at Delft University his checkered trousers were legendary, and at Shell he invariably wore his spotless and meticulously ironed shirts - which I believe he did himself. He was hard working beyond belief - I vividly remember finding him in his office at the NAM one late evening busy solving differential equations, his wife Alice sitting next to him (this was before the days of remote login). And thanks to his huge energy he combined this with being a dedicated family man.

Faith has given Raphic way fewer years of life than he deserved, but he did make the most of the years he got. Raphic was a unique person, the conversations with whom I will dearly miss.

*Ik wens Alice en de kinderen heel veel sterkte om dit grote verlies te verwerken,
Met een laatste groet aan mijn goede vriend Raphic.*

Gertjan Ouwerling - March 15, 2024 at 04:51 AM

MV

Lieve Alice, met oprechte deelneming wil ik jjou en de jongens condoleren met het plotselinge overlijden van jullie Raphic. Wat intens triest en we leven met jullie mee. We wensen jou en de jongens veel sterkte om dit grote verlies te verwerken. En hopen dat jullie de vele mooie herinneringen samen kunnen koesteren en vasthouden. 🙏
Mariet en Jan-Pieter Verhoef Cohen

Mariet Verhoef-Cohen - March 15, 2024 at 05:55 AM

FS

“ *It was with great sadness I learnt of Raphic’s passing away. I am grateful for his enthusiasm and dedication to so many friends and colleagues. Rest in peace, dear Raphic!*

Floris Strijbos - March 15, 2024 at 03:52 AM

JL

“ *It is indeed very sad news to hear of Raphic’s passing, and worse to not having known that he was sick. I knew Raphic for many years, since I first visited Shell’s NAM office in the 90’s. Later, when we both worked in Houston, we talked every month and went through the Harvey flood together. When I left the US for Brazil he gave a very nice farewell speech for me, surprising me with work we had done together long before.*

As many have said, Raphic had a huge heart and was always curious and interested in the well-being of the people around him. He welcomed me with a big smile and a crushing hand shake. I wish his family peace and solace in what all these testimonials say.

As a reminder to the rest of us, when these things happen, I can only think of "carpe diem quam minimum credula postero", especially the second part, which is not as well known.

Rest in Peace Raphic

Jorge Luis Lopez - March 14, 2024 at 09:34 PM



“ Raphic was a role of GM wearing double hats, as a very knowledgeable Geophysicist but always showing curiosity to learn new things and have passion to mentor junior Geophysicist. Everytime I saw him was very energetic, humble and respectful.

Yang Xue - March 14, 2024 at 09:08 PM



“ Raphic was a giant in geophysics for Shell. He had been always given his full support to his colleagues. He is such a great person to work with.

Long Jin - March 14, 2024 at 08:52 PM



“ Yang X. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Yang X. - March 14, 2024 at 08:39 PM



“ Raphic was a brilliant geophysicist and always had a big smile for us. He loved Shell and Shell people and was so proud of his family.



Jan Sherman - March 14, 2024 at 08:13 PM



So sad to hear this. A dear old friend from KSEPL days, with passion, a huge heart, the ultimate pro, and a love for the Maxwell equations that I remember to the present day. We're thinking of Alice and the boys, sending all our love your way.

Huub den Rooijen - March 15, 2024 at 04:37 AM

AC

“ At Shell in Houston Raphic was so curious about geophysics, passionate and willing to share. Truly a great person.

Alan J Cohen, Lafayette LA USA

Alan J Cohen - March 14, 2024 at 06:24 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



March 14, 2024 at 05:13 PM

RM

“ Rex and Mary Martin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Raphael van der Weiden.

Rex and Mary Martin - March 14, 2024 at 05:13 PM

KP

“ Kim, Bryce and Sutton Palumbo purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Raphael van der Weiden.



Kim, Bryce and Sutton Palumbo - March 14, 2024 at 12:30 PM