



## George Elliott "Jed" Dixon

November 29, 2024

Nationally-renowned woodworker George Elliott "Jed" Dixon died on November 29 at the age of 73. He was born in Providence, just before midnight on July 20, 1951; his twin brother, Andy, was born a few minutes later on July 21. He spent his young life in Barrington and New Canaan, Connecticut, before leaving home in 1966 to attend Phillips Academy in Andover and then Brown University. While at Brown, he developed an interest in woodworking and apprenticed with master furniture maker Tage Frid at nearby RISD. After graduation, he opened a woodshop with his twin Andy in the South End neighborhood of Boston. Dixon Brothers Woodworking became a hub of fine carpentry in the city. There, he developed an interest in building custom staircases, due to their beauty and technical complexity. In Boston, he met and married Helen Hardy, and in 1984, they moved their young family to a small farm in Foster. There he opened North Road Stair Builders, which designed and installed custom winding staircases across the northeast. He developed a reputation as a master of the craft, and in 1996, he began giving woodworking lectures across the country. His teaching remains available at [ThisIsCarpentry.com](http://ThisIsCarpentry.com)'s website and YouTube channel.

Jed was known for his insatiable curiosity. He kept bees, tended orchards, pressed cider with an antique press he restored, and raised horses, sheep, pigs, chickens, dogs, cats, and three children. He tapped maple trees and

made sugar; he built barns, greenhouses, outdoor saunas, and the locally famous Swamp Meadow Covered Bridge. He repaired cars, motorcycles, tractors, and hay-balers. He grew horseradish and blended it wearing a mask and snorkel. He read a book every week from the time he was ten years old until Alzheimer's took that from him. He hiked Mount Washington, sailed across the Atlantic, paddled the Boundary Waters and the Grand Canyon, hang-glided off Mount Tom. He taught dozens of carpenters how to turn at the lathe. Dogs and children adored him. He had sparkling eyes and well-worn smile lines on his face.

He retained his kindness and gentle spirit in spite of the indignities of Alzheimer's Disease. He would want us to strive for a world in which people can die with dignity when they are ready.

He is survived by his wife Helen, siblings Andy and Candis, children Will, Nathaniel, and May; grandchildren Elliott and Nora; and countless beautiful staircases.

Visiting hours will take place on Saturday January 18th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Winfield & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory, 571 West Greenville Road, Scituate.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 18. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Winfield & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory  
571 West Greenville Road (Route 116)  
Scituate, RI 02857  
(401) 647-5421

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Jed was a stairbuilding legend. He was a kind and thoughtful man sharing all his knowledge with everyone. One time i visited his shop and commented on the hundreds of balusters and turnings he had hanging on the walls and stacked on shelves. All left over from past jobs. He said he was saving them to use as fuel for his funeral pyre! I wish i could be there to see all his fans, students and his family. Ill be thinking of you from Barbados.*

*Bill Bivona Hardwood Design*

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**Bill Bivona** - January 15, 2025 at 11:02 AM

AI

“ *The Cub Scouts (Troop 101) went to Will's house to make a shield. Jed taught us and showed us the absolute basics of woodworking while doing most of the heavy lifting for the whole troop himself. We all felt like super heroes with the wooden shields we made. Mine was painted with an owl on it. My thoughts are with the Dixons. Your father made such a mark on us Foster kids. I'll be thinking of you all from California. My sincerest condolences.*

*Andrew E. Irons*

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**Andrew Irons** - December 24, 2024 at 12:58 AM

BS

*Thank you Jed for your kindness and willingness to share. You were always a hero to me. I recently had the privilege of sharing some hand turned bells for caregivers of mine at the VA, and thought of you throughout the entire project. I will do my best to pass on everything I've learned from you and others. It's been an honor and blessing to know you Jed.*

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**Bob Scott** - December 30, 2024 at 07:56 PM

AL

*My condolences to the Dixon Family. I attended many of Jed's classes at JLC Live in Providence and enjoyed every minute. A tremendous loss to the carpentry community.*

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**Art Laurenson** - January 08, 2025 at 10:13 PM

WB

*I sold my first house to Jed and Helen. I had spent 12 years and lots of blood and sweat trying to restore it, It meant a lot to me. I stopped by to see how they were doing several times in the next decades. Each time I came away with a wonderful feeling that my old house was loved and well cared for. Thank you, Jed and Helen.*

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**William Bissell** - January 22, 2025 at 07:39 PM