

'59

David Laing(1937 - 2015)



David D Laing

September 29, 1937 - September 18, 2015

David has moved on from the confines of a body that was failing him due to Parkinson's Disease, a thread that invaded the fabric of his life for the last decade or so. His soul is now free to wander wherever it may lead him. He leaves behind his sense of adventure, wonder, his curiosity, his richness of words, love of nature and poetry and compassion for people.

David grew up in northern New Jersey where he was free to explore the countryside finding the bounty of nature but he spent the majority of his life in Oregon and the northwest. His sister Rosalie still lives in New Jersey.

He was the loving husband of Susan for almost 40 years. He brought to her a deep love and a richness and balance in life that will live on in every fiber of her being.

He was the loving father of Carrie and Molly to whom he brought joy, wonder, adventure, humor and gentle caring.

His greatest interests in life were his family, poetry, nature, social justice and helping others, especially children. Over his life he did many things including teaching literature, labor organizing for the early days of the United Farm Workers, starting and running several daycare centers and finally working with children as a social worker, counselor. He was passionate about all he did and there were many who benefited from his work

Poetry was the strongest thread that ran through is life, always reading and writing. He published two chapbooks of poetry and co-edited a poetry magazine. It was in his poetry that he found true peace in life. His poem "Early Fall" seems to embody his love of nature and also his passing this early fall. Through his poetry and his spirit he will live on in his favorite places, like Minto-Brown Island Park, where this poem found him

Early Fall, by David Laing

near the slough

from the black cottonwood

a shower of yellow leaves

a dozen at a time

stems first

down the cool air

are they letting go

or being released

who knows

flat or folded or curled

the heart shaped leaves

try different paths