



Mr. John Vincent Canfield

August 6, 2017

On August 6th, 2017 John (Jack) V. Canfield was released from this mortal coil, surrounded by loving friends and family. Jack was pre-deceased by his sister Margery, and his parents, John P. Canfield, a coal miner of Irish descent, and Kathryn (nee Bussetti), the daughter of Tyrolean immigrants.

Jack received degrees from George Washington University and Brown University, and was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and a Fulbright scholarship. Jack taught at Cornell University and was a professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, where he had a distinguished academic career. He was a well-known scholar of Wittgenstein; his work concentrated on philosophy of language and philosophy of mind, with a focus on the nature of the self, inspired both by Wittgenstein and his Buddhist practice. (jvcanfield.com).

Jack pursued a spiritual practice in the Zen tradition, and was a founding member of the Toronto Zen Centre and Springwater Center.

Jack will be forever missed and remembered with great love by his wife Sharon; his children Betsy (Martin), Sean, Edie (Todd), Pat (Victoria), Zoe (Michael); grandchildren Daniel, Caoimhe, Nathan, Lee, Hayes, Catherine, Abby; brothers Raymond, Danny (Joan); his extended family; and friends from all walks of life.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to the Toronto Public Library or the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, August 26th, Friends House Meeting Room, 60 Lowther Ave., Toronto at 2pm.

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Sharon;

*I just learned of your loss today via Anne-Marie Prendiville.
My deepest condolences.*

Terry McQuiston

Terry McQuiston - August 26, 2017 at 08:12 PM



“ *Professor Canfield was a man of deep philosophical perspicacity and a very human being.*

I was privileged to be a student in Professor Canfield's graduate lectures on Ludwig Wittgenstein's Tractatus at the University of Toronto in the early 1990's. Professor Canfield exemplified great philosophy in his theory and praxis. Committed to the correctness of the approach of Ludwig Wittgenstein he was, unlike so many other Wittgensteinians, always willing to revisit Wittgenstein's thinking. Professor Canfield was the exception to the rule in that he took no interest in academic power-politics whatsoever. He had no professorial attitude and took his students to be fully human beings and fellow travellers in on the road to edification and thereby truth. I not only enjoyed but also benefited greatly from spending time with the great man as did so many of his students.

The positive influence of his critical mind, his beneficence in the classroom and the perspicacity and depth of his written work had a profound and efficacious effect upon me and upon all of his former students. Allow me to express my gratitude to Professor Canfield and my condolences to his excellent family at this difficult time.

*Patrick J.J. Phillips PH. D
PJJJ@yorku.ca*

Patrick Phillips - August 14, 2017 at 11:31 AM

CF

“ I will miss Jack's presence at Springwater very much. He was always in "his" armchair meditating, even late into the evenings and early mornings. It was an encouragement for me to meditate with him at those harder hours in an empty sitting room

We never spoke, but when I left last year, he came down to say good-bye to me for the first time in many years....as though he knew it might be the last.

Thank you Jack for your encouragement and for your silent "presence" at those times..
May you rest in peace...
Celeste

Celeste Fonsale - August 11, 2017 at 05:03 AM

LC

“ My sincere condolences to the family - I am a friend of Patrick's but have no way of contacting him - if you could give him my message to call me, or alternately, supply me with his phone number I would be so grateful.

It is always so hard to lose a parent, I am so sorry for your loss

Sincerely
Leona Chase
aleonachase@sympatico.ca - 416-485-9502

Leona Chase - August 10, 2017 at 07:07 AM



“ *To dear Pat and the Canfield clan, we send our sincere sympathy on the passing of your father. Thinking of you and hoping you find comfort together in loving memories. Ishbel and Brian.*

Ishbel Halliday - August 09, 2017 at 03:49 PM