



J. Fred Pfeil

September 21, 1949 - November 29, 2005

J. Fred Pfeil of Hartford died peacefully on Tuesday, November 29 at Hartford Hospital. A talented and accomplished English professor at Trinity College, Fred was born in Port Allegany, PA on September 21, 1949, the son of Robert K. and the late Harriet M.

Herriman Pfeil. He graduated with a BA from Amherst College in 1971 and received

an MA in Creative Writing and English from Stanford University in 1973.

Fred's first teaching job was aboard a US Destroyer during the Vietnam War, after which he taught at Stanford University, Stephen's College in Missouri, and Oregon State University. He came to Trinity in 1985 where in recognition of his teaching, writing, and service to the university and community, he was promoted to full professor. Fred was a beloved teacher at Trinity, where he taught courses in Creative Writing, English, American Studies, and Film Studies, was Director of Trinity's Creative Writing Program and an initiator of its Film

Studies Program. He authored numerous works of fiction, including the 1994 Pushcart Award winning *What They Tell You to Forget* and *Goodman 2020*, as well as several books of criticism, including *White Guys*. Fred's commitment to the practice of peace and justice were evident in his work as a facilitator and trainer with the Alternatives to Nonviolence Program in Connecticut's prisons, with the Help Increase the Peace Project in Hartford middle schools, and by his involvement in numerous anti-war and anti-corporatist movements

and organizations including VOID, HAFTA, Laura, and Fair Shake. His work towards peace and social justice was recognized with a lifetime achievement award from American Friends Service Committee in 2005. As a teacher/student of Buddhist meditative practice, Fred participated in and led many meditation workshops and hosted a weekly sit at his home. Fred loved life, all parts of it, but he especially loved his community in Hartford, food in large quantities, jazz, film, literature, storytelling, speaking truth to power, and his beloved wife Elli Findly. He is survived by his wife and two step-children, Caroline and Ross, his father and his sister Dawn DougKeiper of Celebration, FL, and myriad grieving friends from around the world. Fred was deeply loved and he will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held on Wednesday December 7 at 5:00, in the Trinity College Chapel. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Barre Center for Buddhist Studies 149 Lockwood Road, Barre, MA 01005 , the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center 331 Broadway, Cambridge MA 02139 or the American Cancer Society P.O. Box 1004 Meriden CT

Tribute Wall



“ *In my mind's eye, dear Fred, I can see the eruption of your scampish grin, and the flash of subversive magic in your eye.
I hear your voice curling with pleasure around the punch line of a joke or spilling grain soft and soothing around the troubles of a friend.
I watch, awed again, as you lend the whole of your considerable energy, enormous spirit and your great true heart to a variety of projects and practices, always to the end of bettering our world and reducing suffering for all beings.*

*Precious Koosdaa, treasured friend,
You were the rarest of rare jewels among us,
and I am crazy grateful for your presence in my life.
I feel certain that the Earth herself must be reeling now from the loss of you,
aching with your absence.
I know I am.*

My heartfelt condolences to Dawn, your earliest and always cherished comarade; to Bob, from whom not only the trademark spring-step comes, but also your love of a good joke; and of course, to Elli, your beloved partner and "angel", who was right there by your side through it all.##imported-begin##Ann Augustine##imported-end##

December 15, 2005 at 12:00 AM