



Mr. William Arthur Gosling

January 13, 1943 - February 11, 2019

Bill was born in Newport, Rhode Island and grew up in Middletown and Barrington. He received his B.A. from Bates College and his Masters in Library Science from the University of Pittsburgh. He entered the Library of Congress internship program in 1966. Drafted into the Army, he served for a year in Vietnam where he was commended for Soldier of the Month in May 1968 and later received a Bronze Star for his service. Upon returning to the Library of Congress, Bill worked in the MARC Development Office and ran the Cataloging in Publication Program. In 1976 he moved to Durham, NC where he served as Head of Technical Services at Duke University Library until 1986, when he took the same position at the University of Michigan Library.

In 1997 Bill was asked to be Interim Director of the Library, and in 1998 he was chosen to take on the job permanently. After having heart surgery, in 2005 he decided to step down from the Director position and then began a joyous 3 years as Curator of Children's Literature in the Special Collections Library, which he had helped grow by donating his extensive pop-up book collection. After retiring, he continued selecting children's books for the U of M libraries in Ann Arbor and Dearborn.

From an early age, Bill was an avid stamp and coin collector. He also collected decks of playing cards, thousands of which he has donated to the Lilly Library at Indiana University. He loved playing tennis regularly at the Chippewa Club and traveling the world with his wife Jean. She, along with his sons Will and Jon, their wives Ina and Sandy, and his grandson Carter, will cherish his memory forever.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in remembrance of Bill to the "William A. Gosling Children's Literature Endowment (Fund #329276)": <https://victo.rs/2S3tOee>

Visitation will be Thursday, February 28, 2019, from 6:00-8:00 PM at Nie Funeral Home, 3767 W Liberty Road. A Memorial Service will be held 2:00 PM, Friday, March 1, 2019, at First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor, 608 E William St.

Events

FEB **Memorial Gathering** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Nie Funeral Home Inc

3767 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103-9014

MAR **Memorial Service** 02:00PM

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First Congregational Church

608 E. Williams St, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

Comments



“ Dear Jean,

I am so sorry to learn of Bill's passing. It is much unexpected and much, much too soon. He always greeted me with his sweet smile and cheerful hello as he did everyone in the library. The world needs more people like him. All the more sorrowful that he is no longer with us.

Charlie joins me in sending our condolences to you and your family.

Patricia Yocum

Patricia Yocum - March 10 at 01:23 PM



“ Bill was a very thoughtful and kind man. My favorite memory is of him dressing up as Santa and passing out candy canes at one of our Christmas parties at the library. He will be missed!

Take care,
Holly Kiener

Holly Kiener - March 04 at 11:58 AM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Mr. William Arthur Gosling.



February 27 at 02:49 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. William Arthur Gosling.



February 26 at 11:18 AM



“ Dear Jean, William and John. We are deeply saddened over Bill's passing, and yet I remain thankful of the very special time I was able to spend with him recently. Witnessing the love in your family during this period was deeply touching, and something I'll long remember. Bill was a man of lovingkindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and equanimity, and was a force for good in our neighborhood and the broader community for many years. He was a true friend. He taught all of us much, and will remain in memory by so many for all the lives he touched. We share in your sorrow over his passing. Sincerely, Andy and Barb Barnosky

Andrew Barnosky - February 18 at 10:26 AM



“ Thank you Andy, we will never forget your steadfast strength and friendship. And the food, Barb, oh my!

Jean Gosling - February 20 at 06:15 PM



“ Dear Jean, Will & Jon - I look at this photo of Bill and a feeling of happiness, love of life and family and lots of really good and fun memories washes over me. There are very few people who impress David, and Bill was one of them! I am sad that I never got the chance to have Bill show me the Children's Literature collection, but I will continue to donate to it as I have done in the past. David and I are saddened over Bill's passing, but also feel enriched by simply knowing Bill and we are honored to have spent time on this earth with him. Our love to you all, Janet and David

Janet Fritsch - February 21 at 08:25 AM