

“Live simply that others may simply live.”

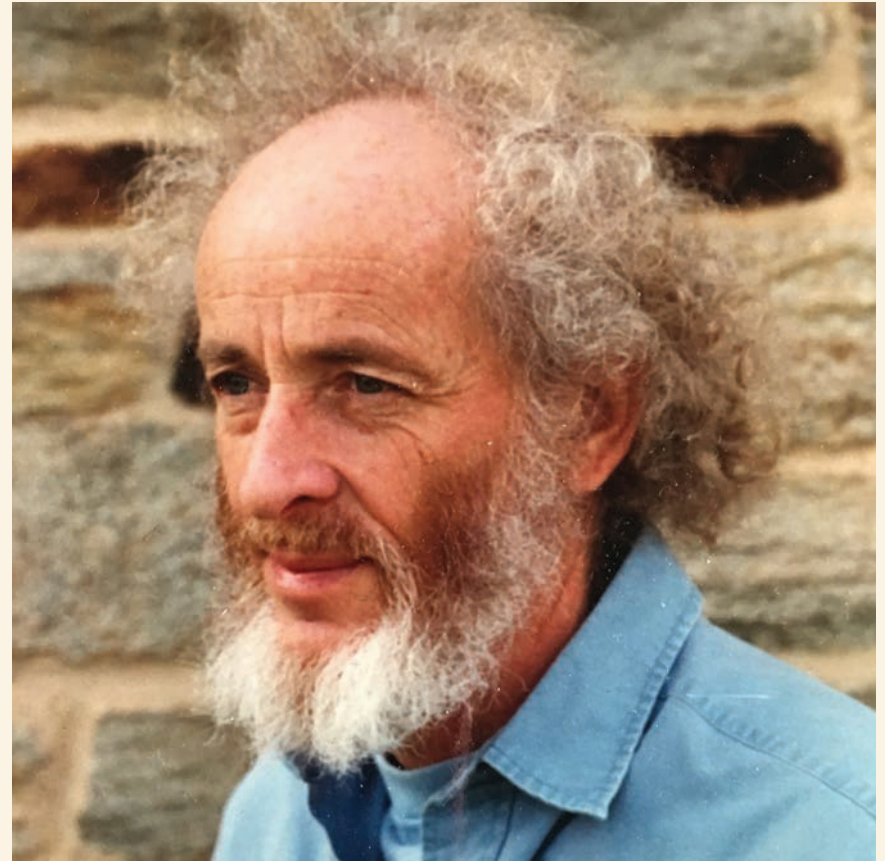
– Mohandas Gandhi

Contributions in Joe’s name may be made to the Joe Morton Fund for Human Rights and Non-Violence. Donations may be made by visiting www.goucher.edu/giving and selecting the fund from the drop-down menu or mailed to Goucher College, the Office of Advancement, 1021 Dulany Valley Road, Baltimore, MD 21204.

A community-building project in Joe’s name is being planned as part of Goucher’s Alumnae/i Weekend, April 28-30, 2017. Details will be available in the spring.

*Slideshow created by Scott Davis ’10,
Denis Devine ’95, and Susan Ziegler ’95*

*Lotte Brewer, curator of music
Joe’s granddaughter*



A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Joe Morton

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016 • 1 P.M. • SANFORD J. UNGAR ATHENAEUM

GOUCHER
—college—

GOUCHER | college

Joe Morton

φιλόσοφόν — one who loves wisdom



“All of a sudden he will catch sight of something wonderfully beautiful in its nature; that, Socrates, is the reason for all his earlier labors.”

— Diotima, Plato's *Symposium*

Joe Morton had a place in the lives of his children, grandchildren, students, colleagues, and friends, each taking on with Joe a special, ineluctable collaboration. Joe was a person of many dimensions, with connections all over the country. His road trips were legendary. In the fall, one would frequently hear in the hallways of Van Meter, “How many death row inmates, Native Americans, activists, and former students do you think Joe visited this summer?” Joe was a man of principled action and great moral conviction, who also graded logic quizzes and student papers and wrote lectures. We often saw the action and activism and apples (to employ Joe's beloved polysyndeton); yet, like the notes in Ancient Greek he wrote to himself on his appointment sheet, we could not always see that the moral labors were born out of incubation in a classical education and intense philosophical reflection.

Joe's philosophical studies of Socrates, Plato, Spinoza, and Whitehead led him to behold a compassionate and convicted and compelling (more polysyndeton) vision of wondrous beauty. He saw moral truths as clearly as mathematicians see geometrical demonstrations and logicians see proofs of valid arguments. Joe was a true philosopher, a lover of wisdom, who saw a world of moral justice, geometrical harmony, and peaceful equality. Even in facing his own death, Joe thought as Socrates did: “It is also natural that I should not tarry longer in life, because I believe that I should gain nothing by drinking the poison a little later—I should only make myself ridiculous in my own eyes if I clung to life and hugged it when it has no more to offer.” In the end, Joe was pragmatic and forthright and moral in facing death. He was at ease in acknowledging that he had a good and long life, full of teaching and doing and giving. (Quiz: What is the name of the stylistic device in which several coordinating conjunctions are used in succession in order to achieve an artistic effect? All correct answers receive an apple.)

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Joe Morton

December 7, 1935 – April 7, 2016

Gathering Music

José Antonio Bowen
President, Goucher College

Welcome and Remarks

Jason Morton
Joe's son

Meredith Morton, cello
Joe's granddaughter
Old English folk song

Rebecca Morton
Joe's daughter

Nancy Magnuson
Goucher College Librarian

Katie Lautar
Goucher class of 1997

Sister Ardeth Platte
Jonah House

Bart Houseman
Professor emeritus of chemistry
Goucher College