

DAVID H. DOEHLERT

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David H. Doehlert, a member of Bellingham Friends Meeting, died of lymphoma March 13, 1999. He was 69 years old.

He leaves his partner, June Gouran, of Anacortes, WA; his three children, Jamie, Christopher and Leslie; five grandchildren (who called him "Grand-David"); a brother, Chuck, and a sister, Margy Barovich.

The son of Charles and Irene Doehlert, originally from Bridgeton, New Jersey, David grew up in Moorestown and Pemberton attending Friends Meeting in Medford. He recalled the family going to Meeting once a month during the time of World War II gas rationing, four miles of walking and two bus rides.

David graduated from Moorestown Friends School, then Swarthmore College. He married, taught math at Moorestown Friends School and taught in public school. He was employed in experimental design at Pittsburg Plate Glass and then with the DuPont Corporation in Delaware, transferring his membership to Newark Monthly Meeting.

David had an inventive mind and was excited about ideas and possibilities. At age 40, he left DuPont and his marriage in search of a simpler life, building a sailboat which took him across the Atlantic Ocean two times, once solo.

He developed his own business, Experiment strategies, creating software, developing training programs, and providing design services.

David was in demand as a consultant, for his original work in applied statistics has been well known and used in the scientific research world. It was out of his statistical knowledge that he encouraged his students to "turn on your electric drill before you plug it in, just in case this time all the electrons are all lined up correctly. It's statistically possible, you know!"

Throughout David's life, the Religious Society of Friends was a spiritual and daily presence for him. David felt the immediacy of the presence of God. He taught us that God could be experienced in humble ways. He shared his appreciation of Brother Lawrence and *Practicing the Presence of God* with others in Bellingham Friends Meeting.

He was a pacifist - love, peace, and simplicity were his beacons for a life well lived. His enthusiasm for life, for gardening, for enjoying the moment, was contagious, and everywhere David went, he made lasting friends. Distance and time apart never diminished the quality of those friendships.

David liked to say he was free of cancer for sixty-eight years. He had hope because he felt God was always present. He shared all his emotions in his conversations out loud with God, both tears and laughter.

About his partnership with June Gouran, David said "the power of loving one another makes everything else clear up. We can identify something good in everything."

David's spirit is now free of his physical illness. His friends in Bellingham Meeting and his family will miss him.

<http://westernquaker.net/FB%20mags%201999/6julyaug99.pdf>