



John Gary Lawlor

March 14, 1946 - September 14, 2017

John Gary Lawlor (71), whom friends all knew as Gary, passed away on September 14, 2017 following a long illness. Gary is predeceased by his mother Irene (Neff) and father John Lawlor. He is survived by a brother Robert and sister-in-law Chris (Marcy) of Chicago, nephews Jack and David and David's wife Kylene S. of Chicago, and friends from throughout the country. Gary was one of those brilliant, creative spirits whose professional and personal life was upturned over and over by a lifelong bipolar disorder that seemed only to complement the unique and cherished force of his character. Educated with a degree in English from Amherst College and law from the University of Pittsburgh, Gary's exquisite dinners for friends, home overflowing with collections of books and ethnographic artifacts from around the world, and personal productions in art and sculpture crafted from anything on hand marked the deep currents of an artist ever finding fulfillment. He culled and arranged his voluminous productions of poetry over the years into a bound set of seventy-six for his many friends. Gary was never afraid of his dying, but he helped others through theirs with calm and loving devotion, for he knew there was no gift greater he could give than this, and that "the world's best libraries, best books will not prepare us to pass this membrane, to make this transit to slip unnoticed beyond." Gary's friends understand, and grieve deeply, that there will be no one in their lives like him again, but they rejoice in how much larger their lives are for having known him. Acknowledgement is paid to the sensitive care Gary received from the staff of the John J. Kane Glen Hazel Nursing Home and the Compassionate Care Hospice. There is no visitation, and interment was private. Donations may be made to In Care of Cats, PO Box 373, Elizabeth, PA 15037. (incareofcats.com)