



Jeffrey Scott Oaks

June 6, 1964 - December 20, 2023

Jeffrey Oaks, age 59, of Pittsburgh, died on December 20, 2023 at Family Hospice. Born June 6, 1964, in Geneva, NY, he was the son of Albert Oaks and Marilyn Foster and the husband of Michael Rusnak.

Jeff worked as a director of undergraduate studies for the Writing Department at the University of Pittsburgh. He taught many classes, but especially enjoyed Intro to Poetry, Intro to Creative Writing, and Writers Journal. He was a poet and his published books include *The Things* and *Little What*. Jeff also had a passion for art. He spent much of his time sketching and painting, at home, at his favorite coffee shop and with friends.

In addition to his husband, Jeff is survived by his brother, Steven Oaks of Canton, MI.; and beloved Andy, the black lab.

In lieu of flowers, Jeff requested that donations be made to Family Hospice link: <https://www.upmc.com/services/home-health-care/hospice/locations/southwest-pa/family-hospice-west/supporting-patients-families>.

Professional services entrusted to D'Alessandro Funeral Home & Crematory Ltd; 4522 Butler Street Pittsburgh, PA, 15201; www.dalessandro ltd.com.

Tribute Wall

LW

“ I took one of Jeff's classes when I was at Pitt. He was the most encouraging and giving professor and person you would ever want to meet. I just found out he passed and it is such a great loss to his students--current and former--as well as his family and anyone who knew him. Rest in peace, Professor Oaks.

L. White - March 19, 2024 at 01:58 PM

HG

“ What an enormous loss. I took two of Jeff's classes in college and wish I had the opportunity to continue learning from him. He inspired hard work in me and made the effort feel worth it. (His “Poetry in Forms” class was agonizing at times, but what a reward it was to create! If only we all could touch so many lives so deeply <3

Thank you for your kind and generous spirit, Jeff. Your heart will live on in your students. - Hannah G

hannah g - January 02, 2024 at 07:56 PM

WG

“ Michael, my heart is with you. My name is Wendy Oaks and Jeff was my cousin. We grew up together on Carter Road. He was 2 years older than me. We lost touch when they moved from Carter Road and I am very sad about that.

One memory that I have was that Jeff loved pea soup and that was just so strange to me. He would always try to get me to eat it. We had a wonderful family neighborhood. Family all down the road. Again my heart is with you.

Wendy Oaks Grooms - December 23, 2023 at 08:03 PM



“ Jeff was a wonderful poet, painter and teacher. I've always admired him.

Michael Simms - December 22, 2023 at 04:23 PM



“ Jeff was an amazing man. He was such a wonderful addition to our family loving and caring. I loved Jeff with all of my heart and he was a wonderful son in law. May you rest in peace Jeff until we meet again.

Brenda Stadelmaier - December 22, 2023 at 10:53 AM