

Lee Roloff

8/15/1927-10/6/2015

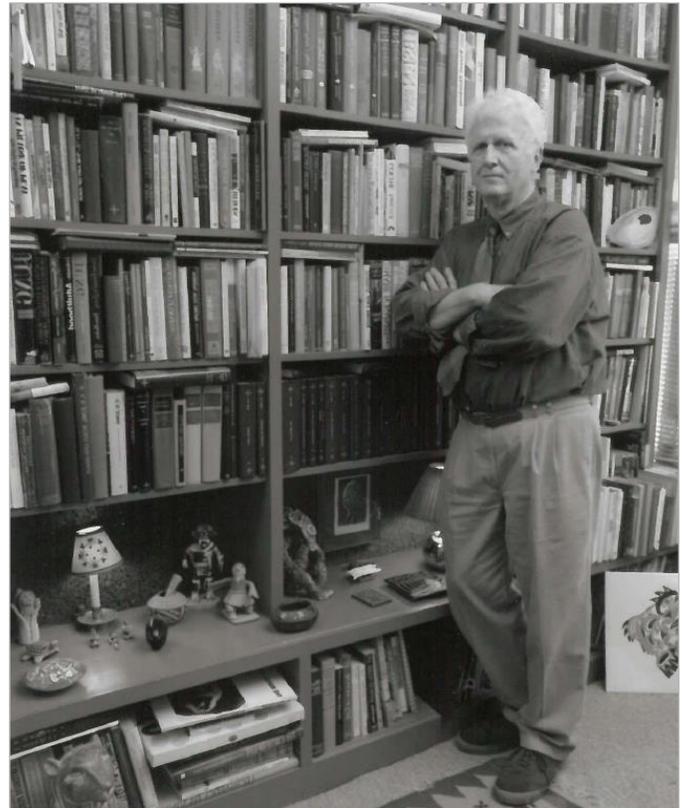
When I became president of the Chicago Institute in September, I had not thought that that one of my tasks would be to invite us as an Institute, and especially as an analytic society, to reflect upon how we remember our colleagues publicly on the occasion of their death. We remember Lee here in three ways – a short obituary Murray Stein wrote to inform members of the International Association of Analytical Psychology of his friend's passing, a fuller obituary offered from the context of Northwestern University, where Lee had such a tremendous influence on so many, and the text of a lifetime achievement award this Institute gave to him in 2011.

To these I add my personal thanksgiving for Lee. I was fortunate to have analyzed with him, an undertaking that was the pivotal experience of my life. When we began, I noticed that he had in his office reproductions of the four "Voyage of Life" paintings of Thomas Cole. I had (and still have) those same reproductions in my office, having viewed the originals many times at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. We spoke about them several times during my analysis, especially the painting titled "Manhood." Lee delighted in bringing to my attention the phallic-shaped shaft of light in that picture, knowing that one of my analytic tasks was to find that light in myself.

Now, I think of Cole's final painting, "Old Age" with its wonderful detail of the angel leading him home and, on behalf of all his fellow analysts in this Society, give thanks for a life that contributed so much to so many of us and to this Institute.



Steve Martz
President, C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago



Lee Roloff (1927-2015) died at his home in Seattle, Washington on October 6, 2015. He is survived by two sons and several grandchildren. Born in San Diego, California, he was a child of the sun and blessed with a sanguine and optimistic disposition. He taught at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas before taking up a full professorship at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He was the recipient of many awards for excellence in teaching. As a professor in the Performing Arts at Northwestern, he was the mentor of many students who went on to distinguished careers in the world of theater.

Lee was one of the first graduates of the Inter-Regional Society of Jungian Analysts (1978) and a founding member of the Chicago Society of Jungian Analysts (CSJA), which was accepted as an IAAP Member Group in 1980. He was a training and supervising analyst at the CSJA until his move to Seattle in the late '90's, where he assumed a similar role in the Jungian groups located in the Pacific Northwest.

In his later years, Lee declared his retirement frequently, but students and analysts always managed to persuade him to remain active as an analyst and teacher, and he invariably acceded gracefully and with a not so hidden sense of pleasure to their requests until his sudden and unexpected final departure just months after his 88th birthday.

We, his friends and colleagues in North America and in his beloved South Africa, deeply grieve his passing, but we will keep him present to us in our loving memories of his vivid personality, his wit and elegance, and his generous service to the Jungian community.

With gratitude,

Murray Stein

Obituary notice from Lee's former student, Judy Hamera:

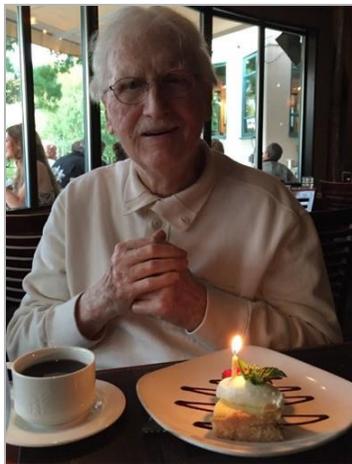
Dear NU and Performance Studies Friends,

First, I apologize for using FB to inform any of you who do not yet know of the sad news of Lee Roloff's death last Tuesday. He was my beloved dissertation advisor and friend. Today I wrote an obituary and sent it to the National Communication Association, to his disciplinary home, to CRTNet, its listserv, and to the Northwestern U Archive that holds his personal papers. As he was an NU alum, I will send it to the Alumni Association as well. The current obituary--clearly lovingly written by his fellow Jungian analyst Murray Stein--has some errors. I wanted to correct them, as well as publicly commemorate Dr. Roloff's scholarly and creative achievements. The text is below. If you have any suggestions of other places I should send this, please let me know. Thank you in advance at this sad time.

Leland ("Lee") H. Roloff (b. 1927), Professor Emeritus of Interpretation and Performance Studies at Northwestern University, passed away at his home in Seattle, WA on Tuesday, October 8, 2015. He received his B.A. in Speech from San Diego State University, an M.A. in Literature from Northwestern, and his PhD in Communication (Interpretation) from University of Southern California under the direction of Janet Bolton. After teaching at Occidental College and Southern Methodist University, Lee Roloff

joined the Interpretation faculty at Northwestern in 1968, offering courses in the analysis and performance of literature, particularly poetry. He was especially well known for creating and teaching courses in performance art, challenging students to produce multimedia, imagistic pieces that moved lyrically, disrupting conventional narrative. His classes were famous for inspiring students

to think deeply about the affective and imaginal work of performance, and for pushing beyond convention to generate more compelling and exacting expression. A formidable performer and critic, he combined playfulness and gravitas in equal measure. His textbook, *The Perception and Evocation of Literature* (1973) articulated his commitment to performance that evokes rather than denotes, and to close critical reading that attended to the affective as well as stylistic dimensions of literary texts. In midlife he trained as a Jungian analyst, receiving his diploma in Analytical Psychology in 1978 and maintaining an active psychoanalytic practice until moving to Seattle after retiring from Northwestern in 1991. His Jungian perspective informed his work as an author and critic; he was an active discussant of contemporary drama in the "Play Talks" initiative of the award winning Steppenwolf Theatre and published actively in journals of analytical psychology, drama therapy, and storytelling. He was an inspiring advisor of doctoral and undergraduate students in Interpretation, Performance Studies, and the Interdisciplinary PhD in Communication Studies. and his mentees include well known directors, artistic directors, performance and



visual artists, and university faculty. He remained active in retirement, giving lectures and performances in the Seattle area.

Above all he was a deeply generous mentor, ever alert to the reality that scholarly production was an affective, social enterprise. He will be deeply and profoundly missed for his fearless advocacy of performance as a mode of personal and social exploration, for his elegant and compelling presence, for his energetic embrace of new media in performance practice, for an evocative pedagogical style that continues to inspire his former students, and for a restless intellectual and aesthetic curiosity that made him impatient with convention.

The following statement is from the Lifetime Achievement Award, given to Lee by the Institute in 2011:

The Board of Directors is pleased to recognize Lee Roloff for his commitment and generosity of service to the Chicago Society of Jungian Analysts and to the C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago:

- Who earned his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Southern California in 1967 and his Diploma in Analytical Psychology from the Interregional Society in 1978, and who provided pivotal support to June Singer and leadership in the development of both the Public and Analytic Training Programs while serving as the public face of Jungian psychology in Chicago with his thoughtful and eloquent words;
- Whose illustrative academic career as professor at Northwestern University spanned forty years during which he taught Performance Art, Archetypal and Psychological Approaches to Literature, Literature in the Therapeutic Setting and seminars in creativity, creative imagination and the performance of psyche in culture while authoring articles on these topics as well as the book, "The Perception and Evocation of Literature".
- Whose career included his practice as a diplomate psychoanalyst working with artists and other professionals seeking an expanded sense of creativity and individuation, teaching the fundamentals of archetypal psychology and its approach to myth, fairy tales and dream analysis as a training analyst for over twenty-five years, and lecturing nationally and internationally on these topics--including an extensive stay in South Africa where he fostered the study of Jung.
- Whose career included his life as a poet, playwright and performer, including a play about Alfred Stieglitz and Georgia O'Keeffe commissioned by the Art Institute of Chicago, and who created and nurtured for years "The Play Talks" at Steppenwolf Theater;
- Whose dedication to the life of psyche informed his role as a spiritual and intellectual mentor to numerous students at Northwestern University and to candidates in the Analyst Training Program, as well as to people who were lucky enough to hear his public lectures, all of whom continue to recount how his caring and creative gifts as a mentor deeply affected and inspired their lives;
- Whose uninhibited enthusiasm for life found expression not only in his analytic, academic and artistic lives but in his private life through caring for his two sons, Peter and Kent, and creating happiness together with his life partner, Bill.

Winter Words

At

Eighty

Words are less facile now

Weighted as they are by recollections.

In the summer and spring of life

Words were carelessly flung.

But now, words are wintery

And more akin to the intricacies

Of snowflakes

Than a summer's meadow.

Having outlived all family members,

I approach the Season of the Final Interlude

With a carol of my own . . .

Hark! Listen to the wind and rain

And recall, if you can, a world without pain,

A world that is innocent of warring stain.

Look! See the sunset's reddening glow

And ponder day's ending and know

*The sameness of sunset's light and winter's
snow.*

--Lee Roloff 2007