

Robert Lee Frost, II
October 25, 1952–March 26, 2011

Bob Frost was born in Bethesda, Maryland on October 25, 1952 to William Prescott and Phyllis Gordon Frost. He was raised in Washington, D.C., Eugene, Oregon, and Panama City Beach, Florida. Deeply troubled by the violence and resistance to desegregation that he witnessed coming of age in the South in the 1960s, Bob devoted his life to a struggle for equality, peace, and social justice.

In 1971, as a sophomore at Grinnell College, he met his future wife, Margaret; they were married on June 5, 1976. Bob earned a B.A. from Grinnell College, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Bob was a devoted, energetic, and beloved teacher throughout his academic career at Carthage College, Wabash College, American University, the State University of New York at Albany, and the University of Michigan. He brought his enthusiasm for information and ideas into the classroom to inspire his students, for whom he cared deeply.

He inherited a liking for tinkering from his father and expressed this in many woodworking and general “improvement” projects. He was also an audiophile and lover of all sorts of jazz, classical, folk, and world music.

In addition to his wife, Margaret Hedstrom, Bob is survived by a dear sister, Elinor G. Frost of Portland, Oregon, and two other siblings, Carol Frost Gustafson of Sacramento, California and Nicholas Frost of Ashland, Oregon; nephew Jef Beason and nieces Lilly Markowitz and Ellie Hanson.

He is also survived by a loving family of Hedstrom in-laws: father-in-law Herbert M. Hedstrom of Grand Marais, Minnesota; sister-in-law Mary Jane Hedstrom of Golden Valley, Minnesota; brother-in-law Alan Hedstrom of Fort Myers Beach, Florida; nephew Milan Hedstrom of Vienna, Austria; niece Amelia Hedstrom of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and many cousins-in-law.

In 2006, Bob established the Frost Open Access Fund at the University of Michigan, School of Information by donating copyright royalties from the estate of his great-grandfather, the poet, to support open access to scholarly and artistic works. In Bob’s memory, contributions are welcome to the Frost Open Access Fund or to the Team Frost Relay for Life via the American Cancer Society.



Memorial Service
Robert L. Frost, 1952-2011

April 15, 2011, 3 p.m.
Rogel Ballroom, Michigan Union

Reflection

Jeff MacKie–Mason – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bob, our Colleague

Chuck Severance – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ray Silverman – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Heidi Skrzypek – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Bob, our University Citizen

Bob Fraser – Dearborn, Michigan

Bob, our Teacher and Mentor

Trond Jacobsen – Detroit, Michigan

Colleen Theisen – Ann Arbor, Michigan

KT Lowe – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Miquelle Milavec – Ann Arbor, Michigan



“Imagine,” John Lennon
sung by Devan Donaldson

Reflection

Christine Harrington – New York

Bob, our Family

Ellie Frost – Portland, Oregon

Mary Jane (MJ) Hedstrom – Golden Valley, Minnesota

Bob, our Friend

Michael Rosenfeld – Seattle, Washington

Lucy Mathiak – Madison, Wisconsin

Bob Halstead – Madison, Wisconsin

David Wallace – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Tyler Stovall – Berkeley, California



Please join us for a reception immediately following
the memorial service in the Rogel Ballroom.