

John Lionel Falk, 81, of Minneapolis, passed away on Monday March 23rd, 2009, at his home on Summit Avenue. Born in Toronto, Dr. Falk was a distinguished research psychologist in Psychopharmacology.

In 2001 Dr. Falk retired after 31 years as Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University where he taught and developed a well funded laboratory for research in psychopharmacology of drug abuse.

He was educated at McGill University in Montreal where he received a B.A. degree in psychology/English and M.A. in Psychology. His PhD. Degree was awarded from the University of Illinois Urbana in Experimental Psychology. He held post-doctoral position at Harvard Medical School, Boston, (Departments of Pharmacology and Nutrition)..

Dr. Falk held academic positions as Assistant Professor at University of Colorado, Boulder, University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Associate Professor at University of Arizona Tempe, before his appointment at Rutgers.

Dr. Falk was a long time member of a Study Section for the National Institutes of Health NIDA and from 1991-1995 he was a member of the Advisory Council for NIDA.

In 1981 he was elected President of the Psychopharmacology Division of the American Psychological Association.

He received a number of awards and honors, among them: Research Scientist Award from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (1990-1999), the Solvay Award for Psychopharmacology (1997), and the Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research, Rutgers University (1997).

Dr. Falk was also a talented poet who published two of his collections: Snow and Other Guises, in 2000 and Holding Out, in 2005. He was also published in various poetry magazines.

His involvement with poetry began in the 1980's, when he joined the Delaware Valley Poets, Inc. He took part in monthly meetings and workshops. In 1995, he began to attend the U.S. 1 Poet's Cooperative (Princeton) weekly meetings. He completed a third book just prior to his death, "From Quiver to Notch," which his family plans to include on a web site dedicated to his poetry.

John Falk was married to Viivi Papp, 1951 to 1960, when they divorced. They had one daughter, Lise Mara.

In November 26, 1965, he married Atsuko Nishino until her death on March 12, 2004.

A third marriage, in 2004 - 2008 to Deborah Mitchell, also ended in divorce.

John is survived by his daughter, Lise Mara (James) Thompson of Santa Monica, California, a Granddaughter, Jasmine (Michael) Prodonovich and a Great Granddaughter, Paige. Sisters, Eleanor Quirt of Minneapolis and Rosalind Cartwright, Chicago. Another sister, Norma Gilbert of Denton, Texas passed away in 2008. A memorial will be held at a later date.

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