

John M. Shlien 1918-2002

Helen Shlien

John M. Shlien, a former Harvard professor who taught clinical psychology in the School of Education for 20 years and was a favorite for many generations of students, passed away on March 23, 2002, at his vacation home in Big Sur, California. He was approaching his 84th birthday, and had been suffering from cancer for several months. After serving in World War II, Mr. Shlien received his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago. Originally a student of anthropology, his meeting with Carl Rogers led him to change direction and study psychology. He developed a deep relationship with Carl Rogers and the client centered approach. He taught with Carl Rogers, and continued to teach in the Human Development Program at the University of Chicago until 1967, when he came to Harvard. At Harvard, during a time of student upheaval, he founded a program in Clinical Psychology and Public Practice, and a few years later opened the Robert W. White School for adolescents who had failed in the city schools of East Boston. After his retirement from Harvard, Professor Shlien lectured extensively throughout Europe on the principles and application of Rogerian psychotherapy. He is survived by his wife, Helen Shlien, his three children, Andrea, Laura and David, all residing in California; five grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A memorial service will be held in Cambridge, Mass, at a date to be announced.

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Policy Statement

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