

In Celebration of Psychology & Philosophy work of E. T. GENDLIN
27th September 2017 - 5.30pm – 7.30pm – Sheffield Central Library

I wish to thank Joyce Gray and here colleagues at the Sheffield Central Library that assisted to make the Celebration a success. 31 people registered (3 cancelling) by calling the Library and via eventbrite; with 18 people in attendance. Thanks to Joyce and her colleague for participating in the 'listening' and 'focusing' activities.

Kathy McGuire sent me a short video of Gene demonstrating self empathy, found in her Creative Edge Focusing E-newsletter. I had everyone view the video after the listening and focusing activities were completed; and Nada Lou sent a great link http://nadalou.com/Nada_new/DVD_YouTube_GENE.html of all kinds of YouTube clips of Gene which I used in the Resource I have created for the Celebration.

I created a series of activities from what Gene and Mary handed out in the 70's. I had people working in 3's, pairs and the last activity was my giving focusing instructions to the whole group. I will shortly have these activities available for download off my website.

At the end I stated Gene's main principle: to paraphrase a quote from Gene: "to have an exchange with another be of the kind that would make the interaction with the other better. We seek to be in interaction that makes us and each other better." The point was made that social media is not the platform for this to happen – to impersonal as the interaction needs to be with each other in person.

We then all viewed the short video of Gene demonstrating the focusing steps.

Finally, I read a poem I wrote when I heard of Gene's death:

GENE VALUED MY SENSATIVITY
I OFTEN DID NOT FEEL VALUED DEEPLY
HE TOUCHED AND NURTURED
WHERE MY CREATIVITY RESIDES WITHIN
FOR GROWTH AND MATURITY
I FELT BETTER ABOUT MYSELF
WE FELT BETTER ABOUT EACH OTHER
TURNING POINT IN MY LIFE
SADNESS IN HIS DEATH

Through the results of a feed back form I handed out I was very pleased to find how pleased all were with the 2 hour session. Interest was expressed for me to start a group. Today received an email to thank me "for a very inspiring event" and that she would be very interested in attending the group I am trying to set up. Another person stated: "lets form a focusing group".

I can think of no better tribute to Gene for the session to be so well received by all those in attendance. I am looking forward to starting a group here in Sheffield.