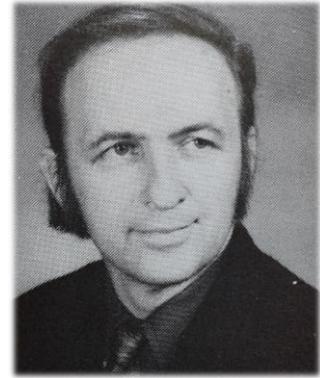


"If I had my life to live over, I would read more-again and again and again!" – J.W. Korner



JOSEPH W. KORNER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Presented by
The Open Books Foundation and Great Books Summer Program

"I remember sitting in Mr. Korner's English class at Whitney Young. He truly was one of the greatest English teachers and he was always concerned with the students grasping the subject..." Enid Spratley Williams. Class of 1980

Joseph Korner was a dynamic educator and a lifelong student. He found his calling in 1968 when, at 32, he became a Chicago Public High School English teacher. He brought deep dedication, creative thinking and high standards to every facet of his profession. His imagination, powerful curiosity and sense of fun empowered his own learning and imparted a unique liveliness to his teaching. Students were captivated by his generous mind and his slightly unorthodox approach. He crystallized and wrote about the virtues of Critical Thinking long before there was broad interest in the idea. He started teaching at Lindblom and Taft, and then Fenger, where he met the man who would be the first Principal of the exciting new Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, which was just being built. He asked Joe to work unpaid over a summer and develop their first English curriculum.

The offerings Joe designed were far from ordinary, including courses in Critical Thinking and Philosophy in Literature. As the founding Chairman of the Whitney Young English Dept and its Chair for over three decades, he melded his devotion to the Socratic teaching method of the Great Books movement with his Buddhist philosophy of seeking enlightenment. The commitment and dedication of his teaching style garnered numerous awards and honors, and had a lifelong impact on his students and other teachers.

"... a great English teacher and focused on assuring that each of his students learned from his philosophies." Sandra Hernandez

Joe's life encompassed far more than scholarly pursuits. He was married for 45 years and had two children. He loved to tell jokes and have fun. In all his avocations, the criterion for participation was enjoyment; success, as commonly defined, never mattered. The word most people used to describe Joe was "charming," and it fit. He had seen a placemat once, with words that became his mantra – Make Each Day a Masterpiece. And he did. He believed in the oneness of the universe, that he was simply an Earthian, a citizen of the Planet Earth.

At 78, Joe remained fit and healthy, both mentally and physically. On September 27, 2014, as Joe was riding his bicycle on a Chicago street, he was struck from behind by a driver who did not see him directly in front of the car. Because he was unhelmeted, Joe died of massive head injuries on November 6th. The Joseph W. Korner Memorial Scholarship was created to memorialize and celebrate Joe's life and his gift for teaching. The monies to fund this Scholarship endowment are provided from the Wrongful Death settlement and his Estate. The monies exist only because Joe was killed.

You can help celebrate Joe's life by experiencing the Great Books Summer Program to further empower your learning and help guide your own academic journey. Let the principles Joe espoused drive your learning with the same passion, creativity, inspiration, originality and fearlessness that drove Joe's career and his life. Let the knowledge you gain from this program help serve as a lasting legacy in honor and memory of Joseph Korner. **For more information or to apply for the Scholarship, visit: openbooksfoundation.org/korner or greatbookssummer.com/admissions/financial-aid**