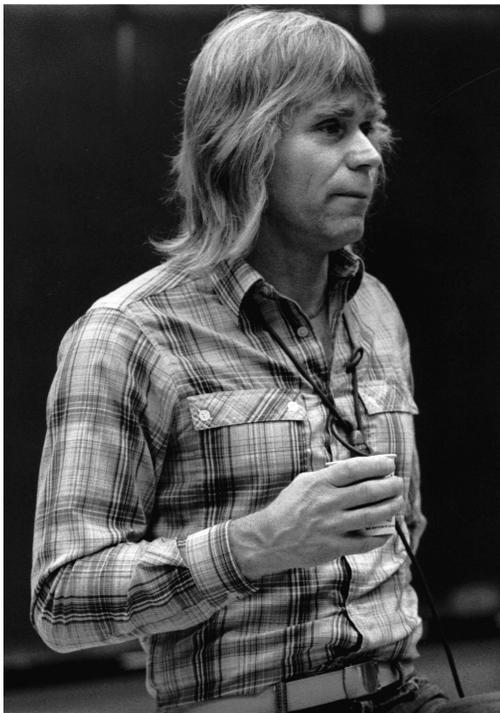


“Education, social and economic reform focused on explicit consciousness of the comprehensive need for fairminded critical thinking offers hope for the gradual elevation of human life and practice from the irrational to the rational. Only if we raise children to think critically, as a matter of course – about their use of language, the information they take in, the nature of the propaganda

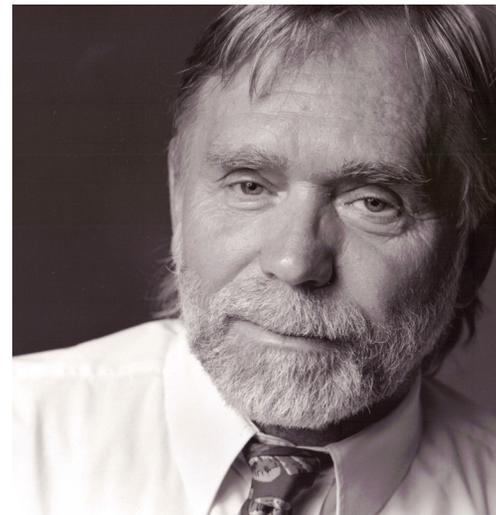


which surrounds them, the prejudices they assume to be self-evident truths – only if we educate children to probe the logical structure of thought, to test proposed knowledge against experience, to scrutinize experience from alternative perspectives; only if we reward those who think for themselves, who display intellectual courage, humility, and faith in reason; only then do we have a fighting chance that children will eventually become free and ethically responsible adults and hence eventually able to create genuinely free and ethical societies.”

– Richard Paul, 1993

Celebrating the Life of Richard Paul, 1937-2015

at the office of the
Foundation for Critical Thinking
Tomales, CA
September 3, 2015



“Only through slow, painful change, with much frustration, will we work our way, eventually, into rational lives in rational societies, into societies in which accelerating change and intensifying complexity are not threats but “givens” in a world of new ways of thinking, responding, and living...”

– Richard Paul

Celebrating Richard Paul

We come together to honor the life of Richard Paul, who is known throughout the world as a leading authority on critical thinking. Through many years of thinking about thinking, Paul has developed a systematic, integrated theory of critical thinking. A striking feature of Paul's approach to critical thinking has been his resolute emphasis on the ethical dimension of human thought, and the problem of human irrationality as the most significant barrier to ethical reasoning, and therefore to critical thought. Through his work, Richard Paul has given us a realistic, if sometimes disheartening, view of human thinking, a view that both invites us into deep understandings in our own lives. He consistently reminds us of the long-term nature of critical thinking development, as in the following statement, written in 1993:



“How will we reach our goal? Where is the path? The fact is there are many paths and they crisscross and double back. Given the complexity of the challenge, our inherent tendencies toward self-deception, and our tenacious grip on unconsciously absorbed beliefs... [understanding] critical thinking requires that we come at it from many different angles and prepare ourselves for a lifetime of diligent and rigorous intellectual work. We must hear the story many times, and appreciate many different versions and variations. We must retell the story to ourselves and others to hear how it sounds, to tighten up our understanding, sharpen our insights, and uncover new and important implications.”

Since the late 1960's, Richard has focused on developing and cultivating a concept of critical thinking both intuitive and rich, a concept accessible to any and everyone willing to commit to developing their minds. He asked of each one of us only that which he knew we are capable – that we take a step forward in the development of our own minds each day. If we are wise, as we say goodbye to Richard today, we will carry forward with us the many powerful ideas he offered us, and we will continue to internalize the principles in a rich conception of critical thinking. We do not deceive ourselves into believing that our loss is not profound, but are reminded, as we remember the living example of Richard Paul, of the precious opportunities that life itself represents – to live life fully in the moment, to live life happily, and to create a more just and fair world for all.



Program

- 11:00 am - Champagne brunch
- 12 noon - Tributes to Richard—
all are invited to speak
- 1:15 pm - Prepare for processional
to cemetery
- 1:45 pm - Processional departs for
Tomales Catholic Cemetery
- 2:15 pm - Gravesite program

