



Gilbert Bryant Foerster

July 8, 1945 ~ March 6, 2020 (age 74)



Obituary

Gilbert Bryant Foerster, 74, died on March 6, 2020, in his home in Fallbrook, California. Gilbert was a native son of California, born July 8, 1945 to Faye Williams and Roland Bryant Foerster.

It's got to be more than flesh and bone

All that you've loved is all you own

Tom Waits

Gilbert's unconventional approach to life sparked many innovations and unique solutions to everyday encounters, both in his personal and business relationships. He was a devoted husband, brother, friend, and active member of his community. Through his crusty but endearing nature, he mentored many and

showed great kindness in his life.

He served 4 years in the Navy as an electrical technician during the Vietnam War. After his military service, he embarked on a life-long pursuit as a nurseryman, eventually specializing in seedling propagation and practices through his business Seedlink Upstarts. He was held in high regard for his extensive knowledge and growing skills, and considered himself one of nature's midwives.

Gilbert had sharp instincts for possibilities, and seized opportunities when others could not see them. In the late 1980's he initiated the reinvention of the old Coffee Mill into today's Encinitas Café, owned by Debbie Zinniger. He and his wife/artist, Anne Mudge, created several "Punkin Patch" fields, replete with life-size storybook scarecrows and puppet shows over several years. During his 45 years as a professional nurseryman in north county San Diego, Gilbert extended his passion for plants into civic action around agricultural and land use issues.

He is survived by his wife Anne Mudge, sister Julie Conrad and brother-in-law Tony Tollner, step-siblings Susan Hanger and Dean Hanger, extended family, and long-time employee Tammy Howell.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be directed to TreeSanDiego.org.