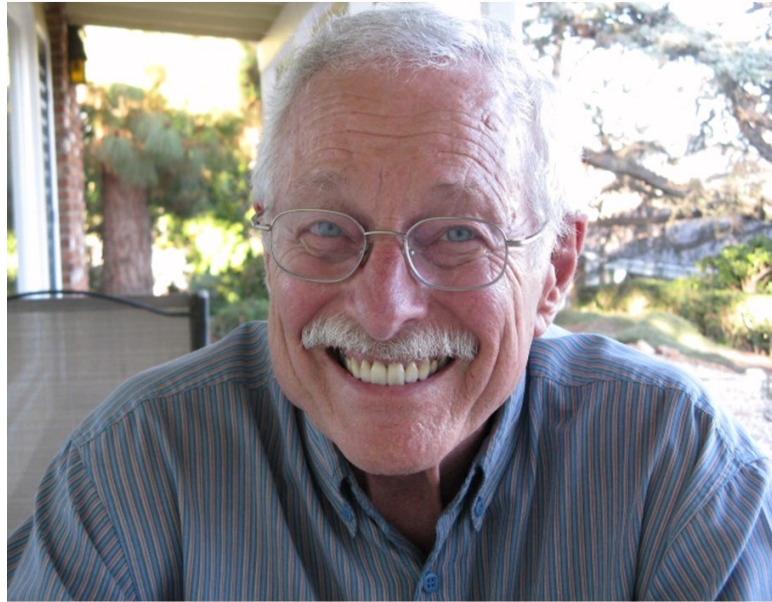


# Rod Rippel



**Woven into our hearts forever**

Son ▪ Brother ▪ Friend ▪ Husband ▪ Father  
▪ Grandfather ▪ Student ▪ Seeker ▪ Singer ▪ Religious  
Trainer ▪ Chemical Engineer ▪ Gold-Medal Winemaker  
▪ Industrial Waste Manager ▪ Restorer ▪ Economic  
Specialist ▪ Keeper of Clean Water ▪ Environmental  
Advocate ▪ Poet ▪ Investor ▪ Thrifty ▪ Expansive in  
interests and hobbies ▪ A lover of classic cars, wine  
bottles, barrels and pencils.



## In His Own Words

*Miles from Moberly*

A Man's Journey to the 21st Century  
Rodney Rippel

"Overall, the life I wanted is the life I lived."

"I am grateful ,  
grateful for my sons,  
proud of them.  
In awe of them really."

Steven ▪ Curtiss ▪ Clifford

Wedding Day with Pauline  
"A point of transition.  
A moment of pure joy,  
deep presence, fully  
engaged and not  
wanting the day to end."

"The odyssey from (too cold!) Detroit  
was enough to convince me that  
if you believe good things will happen,  
they will!"

"It is nurturing to me when  
I sit with Pauline before  
supper and we talk .  
It reinforces my feeling of  
being wanted, needed."

"I can't think of any  
place I would rather  
be than here. "  
San Diego, La Mesa.

## In His Own Words (continued)

### My Leanings

"I am pro-choice, anti-death, pro universal health plan, pro active government, anti tax cuts for the wealthy, pro lobbyist reform, anti guns, anti special interest influence peddling, pro social security, pro civil rights, pro open borders, anti support of dictators and thugs, anti unilateralism, pro lend lease, pro government support of the arts, HIV research and pro green."

### At My Funeral Celebration

"If you choose to honor me you can say that  
I lived my one life and died my one death.  
We are all of us, eternal.  
Nothing can be added or taken away from that which  
comes into existence."

### Epitaph

After Blake and Kunitz

I only borrowed this dust  
What made it dance  
I do not know  
Sometimes Joy  
And sometimes Woe.



**Rod remembered with love. Amen.**



## Yellow Tulip

The yellow tulip in the center of the table.  
Strange I didn't notice you when I came in  
Yet I must have been aware,  
aware of you at some unconscious level.  
That's the truth isn't it of flowers  
And art forms of flowers  
Sitting in our rooms and yards and offices.  
An art form of nature speaking to me at some non-verbal  
Inarticulate level  
Transforming me subtly but surely.

Yes, yellow Tulip, in your place of honor  
You are revolutionary.  
Transforming reality,  
Forcing me to relate to my relationship to you.  
You invite interpretation,  
And consciousness at some point  
And eventually a whole story of creation!  
This is revolutionary power as you sit there  
Working on my unconscious self  
Demanding consciousness and  
Transformed relationship.

Is it not true that you have power?  
Was it not your ancestors  
Transformed the dull financial markets of Europe?  
Where one blossom's value exceeded the  
Cost of houses, horses, gold and jewels.  
There is power in a yellow tulip  
Sitting in the middle of a table of men  
A poem inserted  
The tip of a wedge into rock selves,  
Sensitive and delicate, a winged gift.  
The rock will split! And we will come at the wonder!

Rod Rippel



## A Celebration of Life Rod Rippel

Born in Moberly, Missouri - December 26, 1934  
Completed this life on Earth in La Mesa, California - June 11, 2021

- PRELUDE** Lionel Jasmin
- GREETING AND PROMISES OF GOD** Rev. Victoria Freiheit
- HYMN** *O God Our Help in Ages Past* Page 370 Verses 1-5
- CONFESSION** (Responsively)
- Pastor:** Beloved in Christ, let us confess our sins unto Almighty God.
- People:** We have not loved the Lord, our God, with our whole heart, with our whole soul, with our whole mind. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves.  
Have mercy on us.
- ABSOLUTION** Rev. Victoria Freiheit
- Beloved in Christ, God has mercy on us. We are free to live, for we are a forgiven people. If we walk in the light, As He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and Jesus. His son has redeemed us.
- HARP** *Amazing Grace* Linda Hill-Phoenix

## Program

**ROD'S FAVORITE SCRIPTURES** Romans 8:35, 38-39 and Psalm 23

**Pastor:** The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
**People:** He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.  
**Pastor:** He restores my soul: he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
**People:** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.  
**Pastor:** You prepare a table before me, in the presence of my enemies: you anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.  
**All:** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**REMEMBERING ROD** Rev. Victoria Freiheit

**"THEIR SONG"** Kathy Davis

**PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER** in Unison

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** "Zorba the Greek" Lionel Jasmin

**Community Congregational Church, UCC**

Chula Vista, California

August 18, 2021

Thank you for joining  
in this celebration  
of Rod's life.

Please join us also  
for light refreshments in Bradley Hall.