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## Karl Lalonde



Dr. Karl A. Lalonde of Rapid City, South Dakota, died on May 16, 2020, following a brief illness.

Karl was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 19, 1957. He lived most of his youthful years in Seattle, Washington, and Grinnell, Iowa. He graduated from Grinnell High School in the Class of 1975 and later studied at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, where he earned B.S., M.S. and Ph.D degrees respectively in geology, computer science and engineering, and atmospheric sciences with a dissertation on the application of artificial intelligence in the geosciences. He spent his professional career in the gold-mining industry, computer science, and as a research analyst in the commercial application of satellite imagery.

In his non-professional life Karl was a lover of the Black Hills of South Dakota; a serious collector of minerals, a historian and explorer of old mines, and an avid collector of books and memorabilia of World War I.

He is survived by a daughter, Diane Lalonde of Rapid City; a sister, Pamela Lalonde (Pepe Avila) of Gúejar Sierra, Spain; a niece, Quenna Lalonde (Gregory Flattich) of Cambridge Massachusetts; and his parents, Gerald and Dorothea Lalonde of Grinnell.

Memorial donations may be made to the Drake Community Library, Grinnell.



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# Mineral display donated in memory of Karl Lalonde



Karl Lalonde

Dorrie (Dorothea) and Gerald Lalonde have generously donated a collection of minerals to be displayed in the library. The rocks and minerals were collected by their son, geologist Karl Lalonde, and will be on view in the new fiction section of the library. Various items in the collection will be rotated for display as there are too many to show at one time.

According to Library Assistant Walker Bell, specimens from the Lalonde mineral collection on display include examples of gold as it appears naturally as well as several varieties of quartz.

Quartz is a mineral that can take on a variety of appearances, from the striking purple crystals usually called amethyst to more mundane sandy olivines. Also on display is a piece of obsidian, which is technically a volcanic glass and not a mineral, but has gained notoriety in recent years for its role in defeating the White Walkers in the "Game of Thrones."

The Lalondes have resided in Grinnell since 1969. Dorrie was a long-time library archivist at Drake Community Library, and Gerald is Professor Emeritus of Classics at Grinnell College. The mineral collection donated is part of a much larger collection amassed by Karl throughout his life and career.

After graduating from Grinnell High School in 1975, Karl went on

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Dorrie and Gerald Lalonde have donated an array of rocks and minerals collected by their late son, Karl Lalonde, a geologist and lifelong collector of interesting samples. Portions of the collection will be displayed in this display case in the library's new fiction section, and items on display will periodically be rotated so the entire large collection can be enjoyed by library patrons. — Submitted photo

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to earn B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees respectively in geology, computer science, and atmospheric sciences from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Upon Karl's death in May of 2020, the Lalondes decided to donate a portion of the collection to the library for the community to enjoy.

Karl began collecting minerals when he was about eight years of age. His first kit was purchased from the Geology Department at the University of Washington, near where the family was then living.

Dorrie recounts, "From that time on, he made a point of visiting mineral shops when we traveled, and our attic was so full of boxes of rocks that I wondered if the floor would be able to hold up under the weight."

Tom Loomis, a long-time friend of Karl Lalonde from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, took on the task of going through the large collection to select the minerals to be sent to the library for display. A few of the minerals in the collection are from the quarry north of Le Grand. Karl typically stopped there when visiting Grinnell, and Dorrie wished them to be part of the donated collection.