A MEMORIAL SERVICE

to celebrate the life of

Jerrold Eldon Marsden
b. August 17, 1942  •  d. September 21, 2010

1946
Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

1972
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don’t know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn’t everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

1982

1999

2006

Dabney Lounge & Gardens, Caltech
Friday, January 28, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

Light refreshments will follow the service.
contact: <forjerry@cds.caltech.edu>

If you plan to attend, please register at
http://www.cds.caltech.edu/~marsden/remembrances/memorial/registration

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The Summer Day
—Mary Oliver