



Charlene Whitney Edwards

December 30, 1948 - October 12, 2012

Charlene Whitney Edwards, age 63, wife of Richard Edwards, died peacefully at her home in Trappe on October 12, 2012, of cancer.

Born in Pontiac, MI, on December 30, 1948, Charlene was the daughter of the late William Whitney and Charlotte Whitney Stevens.

She grew up in Michigan and from the beginning her life was shaped and influenced by the arts and higher education. Her early years from preschool through fifth grade at the Roeper School in Bloomfield Hills, MI, where her mother taught, giving her an excellent start in her creative work. From the time Charlene was in sixth grade in Olivet, MI, she was organizing neighborhood children in her home to teach them both art classes in the basement as well as musical dance for later performances in her living room. She would charge her students just enough to get wigs or props that were too hard to make. Folding chairs were borrowed from Olivet College for the performances to be seen by parents and friends. She was also very active in community plays throughout high school. Both of Charlene's parents held graduate degrees in fine arts and were teachers. After pursuing and earning both an undergraduate and Master's degree in graphic design from Michigan State, Charlene went on to hold teaching positions at Michigan State, Miami of Ohio, and McNeese State. She also taught graphic design classes at Salisbury State University and Academy of Arts in Easton.

Charlene left full-time teaching in 1985 to be with and to get married to her longtime friend, Richard Edwards, on the Eastern Shore. In their early years together, they lived on and sailed Wild Call, their beloved wooden yawl. Charlene founded Whitney Edwards graphic design studio in 1985. Charlene always lived her passion for design excellence, and was always striving to master the latest production and digital developments in the field of graphic design and corporate communications. She found great interest combining elements of fine graphic design with the latest digital production development. She was always pushing to stay ahead of the technology curve. Whitney Edwards became a much respected regional design and communications firm, counting many local and regional businesses and institutions among their longterm clients. Charlene was always interested in teaching student interns and mentoring students interested in graphic design and corporate communication.

Charlene's graphic design work appeared in more than 30 noted graphic design publications. She designed a series of Architectural History books authored by noted Historian Paul Baker Touart. In addition to the visual expression of art, Charlene nourished a lifelong passion for dance. A practitioner of Ballet Modern and Jazz dance artistry, she was active with Dance Harrison Street studio. She took prominent roles in a variety of community initiatives, including Fashion for the Arts, Talbot Hospice, and the ACE Mentor Program. Prior to her passing, The Ace Monitor Program of the Eastern Shore established the Charlene Whitney Edwards scholarship. To be awarded annually, the scholarship will be granted to a student who has demonstrated creative and innovative strategy that embodies the spirit that Charlene brought to the ACE Mentoring Program.

She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Richard; her mother, Charlotte Whitney Stevens of Olivet, MI; and her sister, Alice Whitney Webb of

Worcester, MA.

Memorial contributions may be made in Memory of Charlene Whitney Edwards to The Mid-Shore Community Foundation, ACE Mentor Program, 102 East Dover St., Easton, MD 21601.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 19, 2012, at 2 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, P.A., 200 S. Harrison St. in Easton, and later in Olivet, MI.

Previous Events

Service

OCT **19**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Easton Location
200 South Harrison Street
Easton, MD 21601
(410) 822-3131
info@fhnfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Charlene Whitney Edwards*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Charlene Whitney Edwards*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Charlene Whitney Edwards*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Hi Froggie <3 you popped into my mind just now. I miss chatting with you!*

Kristin Dennis - December 18, 2017 at 07:23 PM



“ *I remember a vibrant and pretty young girl who lived a street away in a small town where we spent an afternoon or two sitting together in the grass as she showed me how to play a saxophone. Her parents home was a gathering place for neighborhood kids to enjoy some arts and crafts, as well as some home made refreshments. Charlene was liked by us all.*

marty pierce, Olivet HS Class of 1967 - September 04, 2013 at 10:18 AM



“ My deepest condolences to you Charlotte on the loss of your beautiful daughter. I had no idea that you had taught at Roper... Our son Gus attended there for his entire schooling career. I learned of Charlene's passing from an alumni newsletter from the school. I don't remember if I ever met her, but I'm sure she was quite a fine woman with such vital parents as you and Bill. I have nothing but fond thoughts of working with you to restore the old theater in Olivet during one of my summers there. My best to you and Charlene's family in this most difficult time.

With warmest thoughts,
Lew Schlanbusch

Lewis Schlanbusch - October 22, 2012 at 06:46 PM



“ I was so sorry to hear about Charlene. I met her a few years ago at a mutual metastatic breast cancer gathering in Annapolis. We kept in touch through email once we found out we were from the same town, and last year we rode together to Baltimore for a conference. I am lucky to have known her- she had a great outlook on life and I have learned from her. My sympathies to Richard and Charlene's family. She will be missed.

Sincerely , Ann Pearce

Ann Pearce - October 21, 2012 at 09:29 PM

KC

“ After I joined the small staff of WE Design in 1986, Charlene became my friend, my mentor, my creative partner, and my inspiration. After her cancer diagnosis and through the years that followed, she became my hero. She was positive, pro-active and resilient while doing battle with an unrelenting foe, and although we are now bereft of her presence, she leaves a precious legacy: a "how to" lesson in living life to the fullest and finding grace in giving, sharing and laughing. To Richard, Charlotte, Alice and all those whose lives she touched, I send tender wishes for resolution, peace and cherished memories.

Karin Quimby Counts - October 17, 2012 at 04:06 PM

CF

“ Charlene helped foster my love for written communications and visual design when I interned at WE in 2009. I have continued on my path due very much to the things she taught me during that summer. What a wonderful, inspirational woman. I will miss her in my Twitter timeline, my instagram feed, and my life.

Caroline Fox - October 16, 2012 at 02:04 PM

JS

“ I've known Charlene since our days at MSU back in the late 70s. We worked at WKAR together, she as the station's graphic artist, me as a writer of promos. I eventually audited one of the graphic arts classes she taught, and we collaborated on a cel animation project as well, with an opening that had a role of toilet paper unfurling into space a la "Star Wars." The project was incredibly time-consuming and was never finished, but I have very fond memories of that time—nobody could animate unfurling T.P. like Charlene.

In addition to being a wonderful artist, Charlene was absolutely one of the most genuine, most interesting people I've ever met. I treasure the artwork she gave me and will remember her for her creativity, kindness, generosity and delightful sense of humor. Hers was a life well lived.

Richard, Charlotte, Alice and all the family, please accept my heartfelt condolences. She was loved and is important to many of us. She will be missed.



Joyce Smith - October 15, 2012 at 03:07 PM

JS

From the early days of "Wild Call."

Joyce Smith - October 15, 2012 at 03:08 PM

LF

“ I had the privilege of working with Charlene at Whitney Edwards for the past year and a half. I hope to carry the many lessons learned from her forward in my professional graphics career and personal life. Her generosity and strength in the middle of her great battle were inspirational to me. I will think of her and Richard often.

Liz Fisher

Liz Fisher - October 15, 2012 at 08:53 AM

JK

“ Charlene lived a remarkable life, one that inspired many, many people deeply.

Her adventurous attitude, her broad range of interests, and her creative personality made her a wonderful person to know and work with.

Our thoughts are with Richard and Charlotte. We will all miss Charlene dearly. But I will treasure her memory forever.

Joe & Shirley Kuszai



Joe Kuszai - October 14, 2012 at 12:14 PM

MM

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Melissa Fittro Marino - October 14, 2012 at 11:30 AM

AW

Melissa, I remember and love this frog print that she made many years ago -- Charlene always loved frogs!

Alice Whitney Webb - October 14, 2012 at 12:20 PM

JD

“ *We will always remember Charlene as a loving woman of great talent, strength, joy and generosity. May she rest in well deserved peace.*

Our hearts are with Richard. We are here for him.

Jack Dempsey & Liz McGrory

Jack Dempsey - October 13, 2012 at 06:57 PM

MU

“ *A bright star among us....talented, beautiful, loving and giving. Rest in Peace, dear Charlene. We will miss you.*

Sending our deepest sympathy to Richard and all the members of Charlene's family.

Marie and Bill U'Ren

Marie U'Ren - October 13, 2012 at 06:50 PM

AW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Alice Whitney Webb - October 13, 2012 at 04:42 PM

MA

“ Oct - 12 20112 . the living world has lost a very kind, honest, giving and artistic soul. Beside a friend, and artist on hand for FFTA, a customer she was a very special lady we will miss you but am glad to have had the opportunity to meet you and dance with. Charlene may you rest in peace my friend.

Richard thinking of you, we should all cherish all the good, fun times.

marc

Marc - October 13, 2012 at 02:50 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Charlene



Jack Swersie - October 13, 2012 at 02:13 PM

JS

My name is Jack Swersie. Charlene was a great friend to me back in the East Lansing days. I lived in the same rooming house as she. This is her in 1974 in her room on the first floor of the house, surrounded by some of her artistic creations and holding the household cat, Frodo. I treasure the memories I have of Charlene and, like many, many others, have been greatly touched by her life. Even though I haven't see her in 35 years, we had kept in touch and just knowing she was an email away was heartening to me. I will miss her very much.

Jack Swersie - October 13, 2012 at 02:21 PM

AW

Thank you for posting this photo, Jack -- it brings back fond memories of visiting my sister, Charlene, at MSU. Happy, happy times.

Alice Whitney Webb - October 13, 2012 at 04:30 PM

RE

“ 2 files added to the album *Charlene*



Richard Edwards - October 13, 2012 at 05:14 AM

SW

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Sarah Wescott - October 12, 2012 at 11:24 PM

GC

“ As a friend and high-school classmate at Olivet, Charlene's passing is heartbreaking. She was a gentle soul and so generous, giving of her time and talent, mentoring others.
My prayers are with her husband, her mom and all her friends and colleagues. She will be greatly missed.

Gay Bradley Cash - October 12, 2012 at 10:38 PM

KR

“ Charlene possessed incredible graphic design talent along with what I saw as a peaceful and competent disposition. She will be sorely missed.
Kathy Radcliffe

Kathleen Moore Radcliffe - October 12, 2012 at 09:24 PM

HP

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



holly popiwny - October 12, 2012 at 04:38 PM

JE

Charlene our beloved friend is gone. Easton seems so lonely now. She was so kind and caring. May God take her into His house and may she abide there forever. She has gone only a little ahead and waiting for her friends to join her. We thank God for giving her to us. Until later...much love
Janet and Ed

Janet and Ed - October 12, 2012 at 08:58 PM

DC

“ *My heartfelt condolences to my friend Richard and all the family if Charlene Whitney Edwards. What a beautiful person and I know best friend in life to Richard. I am very fortunate to have met her and Richard through work, but then to know and so thoroughly like and admire both. May the Lord bless you and keep you.*



David Carduff - October 12, 2012 at 02:55 PM

DY

We will miss our Chuckie Frog. She brought love and laughter to our Crazy Sexy Life group. xo

Debbie Young - October 12, 2012 at 05:57 PM