



Melissa Wynn Whitson

June 13, 1956 - November 9, 2021

Wendy Whitson, a loved and respected Asheville artist passed away from leukemia and other illnesses converging. She had been sent home from Duke University Hospital to enter hospice care but died almost immediately after arrival in her home with her loving husband, John present.

She is survived by her mother, Barbara Whitson, and three sisters, Elaine Butler, Christy Aley, and Sarah Healy. Also, by her loving husband, John Davis and her stepdaughter, Jennifer Ivy. In addition, she had many nephews and nieces, and other relatives too numerous to name. She was close to all of them and had many many friends in Asheville and scattered throughout North Carolina and Mexico. She loved people and life, and her delightful laugh will be remembered by all who knew her. Wendy was pre-deceased by her father, Dr. Ronald Whitson.

Wendy graduated from East Carolina University with a degree in art and became a graphic designer for a large company in Atlanta Georgia. 22 years ago, she married her husband, John and they moved to Asheville where within two years she returned to her fine art and opened a studio in the river arts District. After a few successful years she and her husband purchased a building in the district and named it Northlight studios. She was determined to provide space for other artists at a reasonable cost even though the district was fast becoming a more expensive place for artists to work.

She was quite successful and many homes in Asheville and elsewhere exhibit her artwork which consists mainly of impressionistic landscapes that were

inspired by this beautiful area.

Wendy was a strong presence and force in the art world and in the community at large. She was a past president of the River Arts District association, a member of the board at BB&T, on the board of the Chamber of Commerce of Asheville, and several other organizations responsible for the development of the river, the arts, and Asheville in general. She will be greatly missed not only by her family, but also by all the friends and associates from these organizations as well as her neighbors, and patrons of her art all over the country.

She was represented by Wells Gallery at Kiawah, Ballard Designs and by Woolworth in downtown Asheville as well as other galleries and by displaying her art and inviting visitors to her own studio and building at 357 Depot St., Northlight Studios.

She and her husband John were members of First Baptist Church of Asheville and her remains, and a plaque will be placed in the garden there. In a month or so an informal memorial will be held for the many people who knew her to be able to visit her studio and once again see her work and experience her presence. An announcement to this effect of the date and time will be made in every way possible so that people can wander through at their leisure while retaining proper precautions against Covid. A large service at first Baptist would have been preferable but Wendy was very concerned and cautious about not creating a super spreader event.

She was taken from this world way too early. She was loved and will be greatly missed. These words cannot begin to express how much.

Morris Funeral & Cremation Care is serving Wendy's family and condolences may be sent to them through our website at www.morrisfamilycare.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Melissa Wynn Whitson*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *I've just found out about Wendy. I'm so sorry she is gone. Wendy was always friendly and smiling when I saw her. Many years ago I went to one of her parties at her home. She gave out portrait fans of her smiling and wearing dangling earrings. I've kept this fan on a desk on my verandah because it makes me smile. Wendy was beautiful and gifted Asheville has lost a great woman. Lesley Anna Mullen*

lesley anna mullen - September 02, 2022 at 12:14 PM



“ *So very sorry for your family's loss. I grew up admiring Wendy so much. Your family is in my my prayers.*
Sherrie Smith Harkins

Sherrie Harkins - November 19, 2021 at 08:26 PM

GJ

“ I can't express how sad I am to learn of Wendy's untimely death. She was a bright star even as a child, which I know about personally because I was privileged to be one of her babysitters. At a young age she showed admirable characteristics of being mature beyond her years, always making helpful suggestions and wise choices. She was blessed to have wonderful, loving parents. It makes me proud to learn that Wendy's artistic abilities were shared so generously among aspiring artists. Not only did she become a revered artist in her own right, but she also paved the way for others to do the same! A selfless legacy like Wendy's is indeed the most far reaching and long lasting of all. She lives on through the lives of those she enabled to experience their creative dreams. Her talented hands have left treasures of beauty throughout the world. May her loved ones be consoled by this reality. Her spirit is very much alive and among us, and for that I am truly grateful. Wendy was an angel on earth and no doubt she is also one in Heaven now.

*With love forever,
Gail Stroschio Jones*

Gail Stroschio Jones - November 19, 2021 at 11:49 AM

CT

“ I have known Wendy for years. We went to elementary, junior and senior school together in Whiteville. She was a beautiful person, inside and outside. Wendy was a fabulous & talented artist. I last saw her at our 40th high school reunion. However, I kept up with her on Facebook. I always admired the pictures of her paintings that she posted.

When Wendy posted about her leukemia and then the need for ablation die to atrial fibrillation, she was constantly in my prayers 🙏

My condolences go out to her husband, John, & her Mother, Barbara Whitson; also to her sisters, Elaine, Christy, & Sarah & their families. Wendy posted that her sister, Elaine, was a match & would be her bone,marrow donor. This meant the world to her.

I am so sorry for your loss. All of our classmates are devastated also. She will truly be missed by all of us.

God Bless you all & I will be praying for all of you.

Cheryl Townsend - November 16, 2021 at 04:52 PM

JU

“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



Jim Utley - November 16, 2021 at 11:34 AM

JU

“ When I remember Wendy, I think of her wonderful laugh and the fun we had as teenagers exploring Europe with our high school friends . She was always up for an adventure and often shared stories of our young -17 year old lives. My favorite one involved a song by The Association- titled “Windy” .

A ten year old Wendy was awakened by her father Ron to be coaxed to the tv to watch the band perform the song bearing her name. To this day, every time I hear it played, I think of her with a smile, and that “father - daughter moment” that she shared with me . She was a beautiful person and all those that knew her have suffered a great loss.

Wendy, you were loved by so many, you will not be forgotten .

Jim Utley - November 16, 2021 at 08:47 AM

BW

“ Barbara, Elaine and family. I am so sorry for your pain and grief at this time. My prayers are with you. God bless you all.

Barbara Barnhill White - November 15, 2021 at 03:19 PM

ST

“ Asheville has truly lost an incredibly talented artist in Wendy. I will never forget the day she opened her studio to my students inspiring the next generation of painters. She will be missed but her legacy will live on. My sincerest condolences to John and the rest of her family. Sharon Trammel

Sharon Trammel - November 14, 2021 at 10:37 PM

BH

“ I remember the day I walked into Wendy's Northlight Studio. I kept circling about, trying to figure out which amazing work of art I wanted. We talked, she talked about her work and helped me settle on the perfect piece. Godspeed to a wonderful artist and many prayers to her family on their immense loss.

Bev Hollis - November 14, 2021 at 07:58 PM

JS

“ Wendy had such a creative and generous spirit that left us far too soon! She was a beautiful teenager when I moved to Whiteville and I always appreciated visiting her studio in Asheville. Still remember Wendy and her Mom, Barbara visiting my studio in Wilmington several years ago. I also remember her "finding a better price" on a piece of her art that Amanda fell in love with before she had money to purchase art. That beautiful piece of Wendy's has hung over her bed for years and will continue to be there I'm sure!
I'm heartbroken for her family and may God have mercy on them all!

Janet B. Sessoms - November 13, 2021 at 04:35 PM

DW

“ This is a beautiful tribute to her and I'll be honest, has me in tears. Of everyone I first met when my family moved to Whiteville, Wendy was THE one person who was totally accepting of the "new girl" in high school, and embraced me into "the group.". I am forever grateful for that and she will forever hold a special place in my heart. Our friendship, while we lost years due to life, seemed to pick up again at our class reunion.
Thank you, Wendy for being the epitome of a true loving, beautiful and forgiving friend/soul. You will be sorely missed by all of us who were privileged to know you. 💔

Donna Waters - November 13, 2021 at 03:37 PM