



Ronald L. Wing

February 19, 2015

Artist, Illustrator and Cartoonist, Ronald L. Wing, a 48 year resident of Benton, much loved and admired by family and friends, passed away at his daughter's home on February 19, 2015.

He is survived by two sisters; Roberta Wilhide, of Waynesboro, PA and Ruth Ann Lopen of North Franklin, CT; his brother Floyd Elrie Wing of Waldorf, MD; his daughter Christina Richardson and her husband Robert Miller, Elk Grove, PA; three grandsons, Fergus, John and Tahbo; a granddaughter Leah and, her husband Jakob, and their three children, Miles, Clementine and Drake; three nephews, Jeffrey, Stephen, Danny; and two nieces, Barbi and Sally Jo. He is predeceased by his wife, Emily Harris-Wing, his sisters Edith and Sally Wing, as well as his son Eric Richardson and Eric's wife, Dukie Pitso Richardson.

Ron was born in 1929 in San Diego, California. As a child he lived in Panama City, Panama; Dubois, PA; and Norwich, CN. He attended the Norwich Free Academy (NFA) in Norwich, where he studied and graduated in fine arts. Through the combination of his natural talent and excellent preparation from NFA, he was offered a scholastic scholarship at Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn, where he studied art for several years before serving in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. After three years of Navy service, he returned to Pratt, graduating with a BA in Fine Art in 1954. He lived and worked in New York

City for most of the 50's, where he earned his living as a cartoonist and illustrator. During this time he continued to paint and periodically sell fine art. He left NYC for Red Bank, New Jersey, where he lived for a few years before moving to Columbia County, Pennsylvania in the mid 60's.

As a commercial artist and cartoonist for over 50 years, Mr. Wing's cartoons and illustrations have been published regularly in such magazines as Business Week, Argosy, Pageant, Coronet, Readers Digest, and The Saturday Evening Post, to name but a few. A popular illustrator of children's books for Bantam - including many of the Choose Your Own Adventure series - he was also the cartoonist for Larry Wilde's Ethnic Joke Books.

Always extremely productive, Mr. Wing made painting a part of his daily life, continuing to paint up to the last weeks of his life. His love of nature, the mystery of life and death, and other allegorical themes have been captured in the mediums of oil, watercolor, pastel, pencil, charcoal and etchings.

Mr. Wing exhibited his fine art at the National Academy in New York and various galleries in New York City and state, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC. His work is in the Slater Memorial Museum's permanent collection in Norwich, Connecticut and is part of many private collections both nationally and internationally. The annual September art show, started in the early '90s and held at his rustic gallery in the West Creek Mill, Benton, PA, will be not be forgotten.

Ron's humor, his great generosity to family, colleagues, friends and even strangers will be greatly missed, for he tenderly perceived the human condition--pathos to exultation, banality to originality--as wonderfully varied, funny, and most of all, endearing and poignant.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Norwich Free Academy

Foundation, Inc., 321 Broadway, Norwich, CT 06360. Please specify "Ronald Wing, Art Scholarship."

One can hardly think of Ron without a humorous or touching story coming to mind. Those who wish to share their remembrances may gather Sunday, March 1st, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the McMichael Funeral Home, Inc., 4394 Red Rock Road, Benton. (S. R. 487).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

McMichael Funeral Home, Inc.

4394 Red Rock Rd.

S.R. 487

Benton, PA 17814

(570) 204-0858

info@mcmichaelfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

JA

“ He and Emily came to dinner at our home and instead of the typical chocolate or bottle of wine which is quite fine he and Emily walked in with a painting of his which is displayed in my current home-a wonderful reminder of him in so many ways.it was quite thoughtful and generous-he was grateful for successive surgery.Lovingly
Jane Al-Mashat

Jane Al-Mashat - September 09, 2015 at 07:14 PM

JW

“ Ronald was a cousin of my dad Jack. Always remember the one time I met him on a northern road trip I took with my dad 35 years ago. We stayed the night at the mill and saw the outstanding art gallery he developed across the street

jeff wing - February 28, 2015 at 08:14 PM

FC

“ Ronald was my late father's (Rodney/Rocky Wing) favorite & closest cousin. Thanks to that relationship I inherited 3 beautiful works of Ronald's. My parents used to take our daughter Melissa to the mill in the 80's. He presented her with several CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE paperbacks. My dad would regale us with memories of times spent together at their grandmother's in Dubois as boys. They stayed close even both marrying women named Emily Jane. I know he will be missed by those close to him. I am so thankful that my Aunt Phyllis, Rocky's sister, was able to visit him a few months ago.

Francene Crandall - February 28, 2015 at 04:11 PM

 Cheryl
Fallon

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Fallon - February 24, 2015 at 07:26 PM

CR

“ *Ronald came to live with us (The Stephen Bagnell Family) back in the early 1960s. Ronald resided in what had been the carriage house, there, living mainly in the kitchen area where there was a huge fireplace. The fireplace provided warmth and cooking facilities for him as needed.*

Ronald kept to himself, mostly. He was always a quiet person; unassuming. However, my sister, Colette and I were mesmerized by his ability to draw. We were curious of how he captured the tiny details put down on a sheet of paper of every little leaf and chip of bark of an old apple tree, for instance. I recall sitting out in what had been the horse pasture with Ronald when I was 8 years old. I watched intently as he manufactured one of those images with pen and ink. I was amazed at his patience to commit to paper the detail of that tree.

My own father was an artist and a life-long friend of Ron's. Although their style of art was varied from one another, it gave them common ground. I am glad that they became great friends, otherwise, I probably would not have gained the opportunity to know the man, the artist, the friend, almost family member, Ronald Wing.

from: Cynthia Bagnell Raught

Cynthia Raught - February 21, 2015 at 03:39 PM

CR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Cynthia Raught - February 21, 2015 at 02:22 PM

MG

Godspeed to you on your journey home

mary jean greco - February 21, 2015 at 04:55 PM



“ Thank you for the gifts that you gave to the world. You made it a better place to live in. Rest in peace now, Godspeed.

Michael Smith - February 21, 2015 at 12:57 PM

 Cheryl Fallon

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Fallon - February 21, 2015 at 11:30 AM

“ Ron Wing is gone now and I am poorer for it.

Ron was a giant to me from the moment that I met him. The real deal. It's hard for me to describe to people what Ron was to me. He was my teacher that said to me “Call me your teacher at your own peril” He was a father that said to me “You can't choose your family” and at the hospital when the nurse asked “Is this your son?” he said “My youngest son”. He was my best friend that said to me “You have a lot of friends”. He was my peace maker that said to me “Forgive everyone (even though I wouldn't)”.

He and I were never short of wit or conversation. There are hundreds of stories that he's told Cheryl and I over the years about being a cartoonist and illustrator in New York in the 50's and 60's, he told them over and over again and they never got boring. They actually got funnier each time. We laughed together at things that no one else would...Or could. Laughed our asses off. Our last running joke was “Life is a cartoon”.

Ron knew me. He knew me better than anyone else ever knew me and likely knew me better than I know myself. Ron knew me when I was angry. Ron knew me when I was drunk. Ron knew me when I was happy, sad, scared and brave and always accepted me. And in the 15 years that I've known him, we never once got into an argument. If he ever said anything to me that I thought was questionable, I just looked at the painting hanging behind him and knew that he was not full of shit. He was a man of character and the type of man that I have tried to be, falling short many times.

It was Ron Wing that got me into art. Not the filthy 'business' of art, but “Art” itself. To be able to find yourself in your work. It was Ron Wing that handed me my first box of pastels and said “Go make something.” It was Ron Wing that said to me when I brought back 5 pastel drawings “Welcome to the fray”. It was Ron Wing that said to me “Paint what you love, then you'll learn to love yourself”. It was Ron Wing that said to me “To paint is to go down a long stairwell

into your soul and bring out the honest man”.

There have been many people over the years that have been jealous of Ron and I's relationship. History will record a different story but the facts will remain. I can't say that I blame them really. Everyone wants to be in the presence of greatness. The sad part is that they could have been. Ron Wing loved everyone. He loved every thing that was true and honest. All you had to do was look at his work and see that he loved you very much.

And now, looking back trying to find the words to describe what Ron Wing was to me I realize that he was all things beautiful, kind and generous. He was Monet's 'Water Lilies". He was Shostakovich's '5th symphony'. He was Cervantes's 'Don Quixote'. He was my teacher. He was the father that I never had. He was a grand father to my children. He was my comedy relief. He was my brother in arms. He was my counselor. He was my co conspirator. He was my best friend and he will be missed.

Ron Wing is gone now and we're all poorer for it.

Jody Fallon - February 21, 2015 at 09:51 AM