



F o c a l P o i n t

11 MAY 2009





F o c a l P o i n t

BARBARA WILLIAMS

Hello members,

I am very saddened to send this notice on to you as I had become very good friends with Barb over the last two years, going on photo excursions. Kathleen Hill notified me today that Barb had become very ill last night, with cold chills and became suddenly very weak when she awaked from her sleep in the middle of the night. Fred called 911 as Barb was too weak to walk to the car. The hospital did everything they could to stabilize her, but to no avail. She passed from a Bacterial Infection which evidently struck fast.

We all knew Barb as an avid (that's an understatement) she herself proclaimed her photoholic behaviors, well she was an avid and outstanding photographer and friend. I could write hundreds of words to tell you of her beauty, her joy for life and her family, but I am sure you all have beautiful memories of her as well. Her quick witted humor, her love of photography and the beauty of the world around us. I will never forget her, as we waited on top of Clingmans Dome with Fred and Don in April for the sun to go down...I snapped this imaged [Cover].....her smile will always be with me!

Love you Barb!

--Karen Messick



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I am devastated. My heart and soul are spinning with confusion. I loved Barbara. I just spent Saturday shooting in Union Mills with Barb, her husband Fred and her brother David. We had a fabulous relaxing day. I am dizzy with pain. I will miss her so much.

--Annette

I will miss her. She had a sense of humor as irreverent as mine. And warmth and talent. She was a natural in so many ways.

--Jay Daley

I have known Barbara only for a short time; but, I feel I have been her friend for years. I was very impressed with her pictures and more impressed with her charming personality. Barbara's love for animals & travels are an inspiration to anyone. Her curious collections of weird names of people made me laugh and I gave her a couple I had come across (Like Dr. Toothaker - a Dentist !) I have been out on only one shoot with her (Henryton) and I wanted to do go out and shoot with her more often. She encouraged me to try HDR and gave me a lot of pointers. She not only taught me to photograph but also to love nature and life. I will miss you Barbara. Wendy & I pray for her & her family.

--Suku



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My great friend and photo buddy for many years, Barb Williams, passed away Monday afternoon, May 11. For years, it was our routine to speak almost every morning at 0830 and several times throughout the day. I called her the morning of May 11 at 0830 and got no answer. I assumed that she was out driving around with Fred and/or others looking for pictures, so I called her cell and got no answer. I thought that was a bit strange. After getting back from VA late in the afternoon, I received a call from her secretary stating that Barb was in the hospital, being stabilized and fighting off some sort of infection. When I heard the word, "stabilized," I knew something was very wrong. I left a message on her daughter's cell phone. Michelle called back in a few minutes and told me that Barb had passed away. An overwhelming sense of loss and sadness came over me and I'm sure will remain with me.

Barb and I go back many years, first meeting at a workshop at Grandfather Mountain NC about 15 years ago when I was just getting started in the business. It really doesn't seem like that long ago, but a lot of photography, many laughs, and much silliness have ensued. I got Barb to join the Baltimore Camera Club when the group met at the church on Northern Pkwy. It wasn't for her at that time. After judging and speaking to the club at the church in Mt. Washington several years later, I thought that the club has evolved into an outstanding club with outstanding shooters and great photography trips. When I told Barb she should consider re-joining, she did, and it has been great to see her love of photography blossom and to see how much she enjoyed being involved with the club activities and shooting with Karen Messick, Kathleen Hill, and others from the club over the years.

When we first started going out to shoot together, Barb was thinking of getting out of the medical business and I was just getting the ball rolling in the photography business, but suffering from chronic depression and money woes. Barb was always positive in the face of my epic mood swings and it was always fun to hang out with her, even if we didn't take a picture. Our contact and shooting trips became more and more frequent. I found great solace in having Barb to talk to and her willingness to go out and photograph anytime, anywhere made it easy for me to get out and photograph in very trying times. She was always there for me, as I tried to be there for her. But, like in any relationship, everything wasn't always wonderful. Her obsessive personality drove me a bit nuts on occasion as I'm sure my depression, negativity, and edginess wasn't exactly a cake walk for her. But, the most important thing was that Barb was a great and supportive friend, always with a willing ear and warm shoulder, when needed.

We had a ton of laughs.....really, really silly stuff, spontaneous, profane, irreverent. The fun times will be fondly remembered and greatly missed, as will the daily phone calls. Barb's passion was photography and I only hope that I can maintain her level of enthusiasm.



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Barb was a warm and loving person, great fun to be around, always helpful, and determined to get as much joy out of life as humanly possible. I believe she did. She traveled the world, loved her grandchildren (she would gushingly tell funny stories of their activities), loved photography (always ready to go anywhere, anytime. Actually, we were supposed to shoot HDR at Forest Haven the day after she passed), and was a great and loving friend, wife, mother, sister, and grandmother. She and Fred were fun to be around and were great soul-mates. Our heart goes out to Fred and the family.

This morning I was thinking about Barb at 0830, as that's when we would talk most mornings. The phone rang. With a start, I answered the phone. It was almost surreal. It was my good friend, Richard. Rick, although friends for 35 years, hasn't called me this early in the day since the morning of 9-11. Maybe that was Barb's way of getting one more call in, being the obsessive person we all knew and loved her to be.

I don't have enough time left to ever stop missing my dear friend, Babs.

We love ya, kiddo...

--Tony Sweet





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Barbara was a friend. She was everyone's friend.

I have only known Barbara for a few months but she was a person that I feel lucky to have known. I appreciated her as a friend. Even though we only ever really talked through photography I feel that I got to know a lot about Barbara. She always had a joke. Her dry sense of humor made me laugh, and still makes me laugh. She always smiled. However, the one thing that I truly admired about Barbara was that she turned her dreams into reality. How many of us can say that we achieve that in our lives? She loved her photography and her passion to become a better photographer was a great inspiration to me. She was, of course, a very skilled photographer and her images have touched me in many ways, as I am sure they have many of you. I especially remember her presentation from her trip to China last year. She talked about her dream to spend time with Panda Bears. Another dream that she made come true.

I was planning to go shooting with Barbara tomorrow. Kathleen called me this evening and gave me the news, and it floored me like I am sure it did everyone else. I am still speechless and words cannot express how saddened I am by this. However, there is one thing that I can do. I am still going to go shooting tomorrow. I am going to go and put into practice the lesson that she taught me. I am going to go and try to shoot my best picture yet - because that is my dream. And if I don't get the picture tomorrow, then i will try the next time, and then the time after that.....

My thoughts and prayers are with Barbara and her family. Thank you Barbara.

--Arthur Ransome



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The last time I saw Barbara she was sitting on the print table dangling her legs like a teenage girl happily explaining how she got her competition shot in Henryton before the police escorted her off the grounds. It is so strange to think I will never have the pleasure of her humor again. I have so many images of her, real and remembered, engaged with photography and the world around her. It seems she was always there whenever the club had something going. She stopped to work the shadows on the steps in Port Deposit one morning and before long nearly everyone had tried that shot. Bundled up against the 10 degree morning cold she sat on the sidewalk in Ellicott City shooting an ash tray shaped like a cigarette butt which, she later admitted, she didn't know until she got home and downloaded her photos that that's what it was.

On macro night she worked the tables finding something in everything and everyone, sharing what she knew while shooting garlics and peppers. One Sunday in western Maryland she quickly made the acquaintance of an Amish woman on her way to church and came away with her portrait and mailing address. And just this winter on Federal Hill after she'd maxed out on panoramics of the city she came around to see what others were shooting of interest. When I explained my subject she encouraged me with a "You go, girl!" before moving off to find her own next shot.

I hope that heaven is ready for a woman with spunk and humor, unafraid to take chances. A woman who moved among us with cheer and a can-do attitude always ready to pitch in and help. One who liked the occasional margarita and relished a late breakfast among the mannequins at the Paper Moon after wooing the orchids and palms at the conservatory. Who filled her memory cards with abstracts and color and embraced all things photographic. I hope that heaven is ready to take up her spirit, 'cause I'm sure not ready to let her go. But Barbara, you go, girl!

--Karen Dillon



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About two years ago one winter day, I went to the Baltimore Conservatory to take some photos. A lady came and asked me whether I had been taking photos a long time. I said no, I was just a beginner and I didn't know exactly what I was doing. She suggested that I take some lessons. So, I told her that I took several online classes from Tony Sweet and learning a lot from Baltimore Camera Club.

She said, "How funny, he is my mentor!!!" Tony was in the Palm room. She took me to Tony and introduced him to me. Next time I saw her was at the BCC Thursday night. So, she must have joined the BCC. I met her at BCC about 3 times, since I couldn't attend meetings regularly, but she was always jolly and spent some time talking to me as if I was her good friend.

The last time I saw her was at the club of the recent Camera School Day. She was talking with Karen. I only said hi since I didn't want to interrupt her meeting with Karen.

What a wonderful and loving person she was, I am going to miss her smile and the kind warmth that vibrated from her...

God bless her kind and loving soul.

--Chung Kim



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Barbara was a model for us all in so many ways. She was an outstanding photographer who always had time to share her talent with members struggling to be better photographers. Barbara was truly a happy person and shared her joy with her one liners and photo tips. On a recent trip to Longwood Gardens, Barbara told me she was downsizing. By that she meant tht she was trying to continue to capture great images with fewer lenses. Everyone at BCC will miss her and feel the loss that her family must feel at this moment.

--Frank Bien

I am shocked and deeply saddened at Barbara's passing. I can only imaging what you must be going through now. When my wife past away eight years ago, I found it helpful to hear how other people thought of her during her life. In the short time that I've knowing Barbara, I have found her to be one of the most talented and giving people that I have ever known. I will never forget her wit and willingness to help others. She has been my inspiration and guide over the last year. I will miss her deeply.

--Jeffrey Wolk

Barbara taught us all how to live. She always wore a smile, she had a passion for life and she lived it fully. She leaves us her wonderful images that have been a source of inspiration to me as a camera club member. We shared our love of China and our love of photography. I am joyful to have had such a friend. My prayers are with you, her dear family. You were her highest priority.

--Maria Drumm



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This news shocks and saddens me. Barbara is my friend. Like many others in the BCC, I have known Barbara for the past 2 years and had the pleasure of traveling in the same group with herself and Fred to China on a 2 week photo tour last spring. I feel privileged to have been able to share some of her favorite Photo moments with her. She was a source of comfort and inspiration to all in the group, with her photographic eye and insatiable appetite for the next great image. She seemed to have more energy than the others in the group and was always eager not to miss a photo-op. She was a never ending source of stories and anecdotes and kept us awake and entertained even on some long 8 hour bus trips that were part of the tour.

When we presented the slide show of photos taken on the China Tour I insisted, despite her resistance, that she would do the "photographic" part of the show and I would do just the travel documentary portion. I recognized her talent and learned a lot from her. She never hesitated to do kindly critique or share her ideas with me and her fellow photographers, and I thank her for that.

Here in Baltimore, her favorite question was .."Do you want to go out shooting tomorrow?". Unfortunately for me, my 9 to 5 job did not permit me to take advantage of this offer as often as I would have liked. I will however remember trips to Worthington and her favorite "hidden lake" (which turned out to be not so "hidden" after all as she had shared it with several of her friends), Henryton, Falls Road, and most recently, Shenks Ferry two weekends ago.

Her other passion was her family and her grandchildren, and they were the only ones who could get between her and her passion for photography.

I know that she will be missed greatly by all who knew her, and my heart and prayers go out to Fred and her brother David and the rest of her family. We should all be consoled by the fact that Barbara lived a full life and saw much of the beauty that the world has to offer. We are privileged that she also shared some of this with us.

--Errol Bennett



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BARBARA WILLIAMS

Barbara Williams

Date of Funeral: Wednesday, May 13, 2009

Time of Funeral: 1 PM

Funeral Location: Levinson Chapel

Cemetery:

Shaarei Tfiloh Cemetery - 5800 Windsor Mill Road

On May 11, 2009, Barbara Williams (nee Paul); loving wife of Fred Williams; devoted mother of Michelle and Ben Cagan of Baltimore, MD., and Dr. Michael and Holly Williams of Columbia, MD; dear sister of Dr. David Paul; loving sister-in-law of Janis Stroup and Ken and Paula Williams; adoring grandmother of Jonah and Ellie Cagan; loving daughter of the late Jeannette and Felix Paul. Services at SOL LEVINSON & BROS., INC., 8900 Reisterstown Road, at Mount Wilson Lane on Wednesday, May 13, at 1 PM. Interment Shaarei Tfiloh Cemetery - 5800 Windsor Mill Road. Please omit flowers. In mourning at 9937 Middle Mill Drive Owings Mills MD 21117 sollevinson.com

Please click here to view or sign the memorial book for the family of

Barbara Williams

<http://www.sollevinson.com/guestbook.php?id=24>



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