



## Mr. Richard Thomas Weber

December 7, 1953 - February 16, 2014

Richard Thomas Weber, born in Patterson, NJ, on December 7, 1953 and long-time resident of Pittsfield, peacefully passed away on February 16, 2014.

Rick was the son of William F. and Marion C. Weber (née Schmidt). He married Donna Saylor in 1976, and together they moved to Pittsfield in 1978. Their son, Owen, was born in 1984.

A graduate of Freehold High (1971), he earned his Bachelor's degree in Art Education at the College of New Jersey (1975), and later a Master's in Education at Lesley College (1993).

Rick enjoyed a long and successful career as a beloved elementary school art teacher of 33 years. He loved teaching elementary art. Throughout his career, he cherished the work of his students and valued teaching the foundations of art. He touched the lives of so many young people in Pittsfield, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Housatonic and Great Barrington.

In his retirement, he continued a career of oil and later watercolor painting en plein air. Landscapes, still lifes, and portraiture were his passions. He painted every corner of Berkshire County, and particularly loved painting Pontoosuc Lake.

He was an avid sportsman, until his Addison's disease and AMN (Adrenomyeloneuropathy) made it too difficult to play. He enjoyed A-level volleyball, and truly loved golf, which he played at a high level for more than forty years. He was a member of Berkshire Hills Country Club. He was a big fan of the Yankees, Giants, Jets, Knicks, and St. John's basketball team.

In later life, he grew to love books. He amassed a large collection of art books, but ever since the day his son gave him a copy of Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*, he never stopped reading. His favorite authors were McCarthy, Stieg Larsson, Dan Brown, and many more.

His family heritage of Danish descent was an extremely important element of his life. His great-grandfather Thomas Schmidt was an excellent artist and a teacher in Denmark. Rick shared his birthdate, December 7th, and was given the same middle name.

He loved and was devoted to his church, First Church of Christ at Park Square. He served as Moderator of the Church, Christian Education chairperson, Personnel Committee Chairperson, and Delegate to the UCC and Mission Outreach.

Rick loved life, and cherished each and every day. He adored his brilliant, caring wife of 38 years, his wonderful, artistic son, and his bright and engaging daughter-in-law. They were the center of his life.

He is survived by his wife Donna Weber, his son Owen Weber and his daughter-in-law Sarah Thein-Weber, his brother William Weber, his sister Laurie and her husband Edward Klesitz, his mother and father-in-law Patsy and Robert Saylor, his sister-in-law Linda and her husband Gary Brogan, and his nieces and nephews Jonas, Nicholas, and Wyatt Weber, Juliet and Emily Klesitz, and Nichole and Danielle Brogan.

## Funeral Notice:

Funeral services for Mr. Richard T. Weber will be Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 11 a.m. at First Church of Christ Congregational on Park Square, Pittsfield with Pastor James Lumsden officiating. Calling hours at the Dwyer Funeral Home will be Friday, February 21, 2014 from 4 to 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to First Church of Christ, care of the Dwyer Funeral Home, 776 North St., Pittsfield MA 01201, in his memory.

DONATIONS CANNOT BE MADE ON THIS WEBSITE, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dwyer Family Funeral Home  
776 North Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201  
(413) 442-5094  
info@dwyerfuneral.com  
<https://www.dwyerfuneral.com/>

## Service

FEB **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ  
27 East St.  
Pittsfield, MA

# Tribute Wall

JG

“ *Richard was a wonderful artist! I am saddened by his passing ~ he will be missed!*

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**Jennifer Gallant** - April 09, 2014 at 11:19 AM

KS

“ *To Rick's family - I am so very sorry to hear of Rick's passing. I went all through grammar school and high school with Rick, and can remember the many times he made us laugh. He was such a likable guy. I'm sure his delightful spirit will always be with you. ~ Kathy Smith, Freeland, MI (originally from Freehold, NJ)*

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**Kathy Smith** - February 25, 2014 at 10:47 AM

PM

“ *With sincere sympathy to you and your family. I was sorry to hear about the passing of Rick. I didn't know him well but took a course one summer with Rick in Pittsfield. He was very friendly and personable. Donna, I also enjoyed your help and working with you in Lenox. Prayers to you and your family. Priscilla Morrill*

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**Prisciila Morrill** - February 23, 2014 at 06:59 AM

HK

“ Words cannot express the impact that Mr. Weber had on me as a child. Combining his creative passion with thoughtful patience, he showed me how to work with clay, paint, and paper to express both what I saw, and what I hoped to see in the world around me. For years, the time that I spent in his classroom was always my favorite part of the day, where I felt the most comfortable, and was able to express myself most authentically. Put simply, he taught me to love both the practice of art, and the art in myself. His teaching has stayed with me all my life and has greatly shaped the artist, and person I am today. I speak for not just myself, but for all of my siblings, and my husband too, when I say how truly thankful we are to have had him in our lives as our art teacher.

Hana Kenny - February 22, 2014 at 01:07 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Richard Thomas Weber.



February 21, 2014 at 01:25 PM

DW

“ Daria Woodger lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Thomas Weber



Daria Woodger - February 21, 2014 at 01:02 PM

DW

“ Dear Donna, I am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful husband. Know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Always your friend,  
Daria

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**Daria Woodger** - February 21, 2014 at 12:53 PM

 Ginny Passetto

“ We are two of many of Rick's colleagues/friends who mourn the sudden loss of such a gentle and loved man. We experienced the joy of Rick's friendship and his sense of humor, his laugh, and mutual love of teaching at The Stockbridge Plain School. Rick's dedication to his profession served as an everlasting inspiration to all who had the privilege to work with him. His genuine concern for fellow staff was experienced more than once by each of us. In some ways, Rick was like a big brother. His counsel was sought by others and he was respected and loved by all who knew him.

We have lost a dear friend but the Heavens have received an angel to be sure.

To his family may your many endearing memories be a comfort to you all in the days and years ahead.

Ginny and Jack Passetto

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**Ginny Passetto** - February 20, 2014 at 07:28 PM

KL

“ I personally saw Rick's dedication everyday as his colleague. What really shows Rick's influence as a teacher are the memories of my sons who had Rick as an art teacher. They each can remember every project they did and how much they respected Mr. Webber. Our family sends peace to his family and may his memory be a blessing.

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**Karen Luttenberger** - February 20, 2014 at 08:32 AM

FR

“ Rick was a wonderful teacher and mentor to my son, Drew Bridges, while a student at The Plain School in Stockbridge. I'll never forget Rick's kindness and empathy when Drew died in 2007. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve the loss of your beloved.  
Rev. Fran Ruthven

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**Fran Ruthven** - February 20, 2014 at 04:22 AM

HA

“ I remember having Mr. Weber as my art teacher in elementary school, but he was so much more than that to all of us. His passion for art truly shone and made us all so proud of our work and so happy to get to have his art class (and I'm not just saying that, either). One memory I have was when I was trying to draw a picture of myself with a tennis racquet on the tennis court. I was drawing the background after I had drawn myself and my racquet. It was taking me a long time because I was drawing individual x's for each time the chains crossed each other. I went over to him sitting on his stool at his desk to show him what I was doing, and he asked me why I was making x's when I could be drawing lines. He took my pencil and showed me what he meant: I could dramatically speed the process up by making diagonal lines one way, then diagonal lines the other way crossing the entire page. I smiled, because I was so glad to have been shown an easier and quicker way. Rest in peace, Mr. Weber. You were my favorite art teacher for sure, and your memory will live on forever. I won't ever forget you.



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**Haley** - February 19, 2014 at 10:01 PM

BK

“ *Becky Knox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Richard Thomas Weber*



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**Becky Knox** - February 19, 2014 at 04:29 PM

BK

“ *Dear Donna and family.  
I am so very sorry to learn of your recent struggles and now your loss. Still such a young and vibrant age. I didn't know Richard taught elementary school art. Oh, then he touched many young lives in a beautiful way.  
My sincere sympathy,  
Becky Knox*

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**Becky Knox** - February 19, 2014 at 04:29 PM

JB

“ *I was in Mr. Weber's art classes in 4th and 5th grade at the Stockbridge Plain school. I will always remember how fun and creative his class projects were. In particular, I remember painting the mural next to the cafeteria. He was a truly wonderful mentor and will be deeply missed.*

*-Jessica*

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**Jessica B** - February 19, 2014 at 12:48 PM

TL

“ *Our deepest sympathies to the Weber family. Rick will always be remembered fondly by my children as their art teacher. You are in our thoughts. Ruthie, Alison, Janet and Tim Lee*

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**Tim Lee** - February 19, 2014 at 11:26 AM

WC

“ Being a co-worker of Donna's for many years, I heard many stories about Rick, but I only got to meet Rick a couple of times. I have learned what a fine, caring, and thoughtful man he was. My husband and I saw a glimpse of his talent by attending one of his art shows in Great Barrington. Rick was a magnificent artist, and I certainly felt privileged to receive *The Weber's Christmas card* each year, which consisted of the image of one of Rick's paintings. I have saved EVERY one of these creations! My deepest sympathy goes out to Donna, Owen, Sarah, and the Weber Family for their loss. Rick was taken too soon.

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**Wendy Clothier** - February 19, 2014 at 10:20 AM

BS

“ It is with great sorrow that I learned of Rick's passing. I loved him as a colleague and a friend. He was one of the most positive people that I have ever met. May his memory be a blessing.

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**Bob Salzman** - February 19, 2014 at 07:11 AM