



Wendy Laing Thompson

December 15, 1940 - April 22, 2020

Wendy Laing Thompson, 79, of Whitehaven died Wednesday, April 22, 2020 of injuries sustained in a motor vehicle crash.

Born in Oxford, England, she was the only daughter of the late Mary Grace Laing and Donald Laing of Swindon, Wiltshire, England. Her father died during World War II when Thompson was very young.

She trained as a bacteriologist before moving to Chelsea, London, where she lived during the 1960s and early 1970s. During her time in London, she worked as a photographer's assistant and in marketing before she moved to the United States in the mid-1970s. She modeled and appeared on the cover of a James Bond book.

Upon arriving to the United States, her daughter, Rayne Thompson, was born in Los Angeles, California. They settled in Point Richmond, CA, a town she cherished where she played many roles at The Masquers Playhouse. After several years, she returned to England with her daughter. In 1988 they both came back to the United States, this time to Wicomico County, where she lived in Salisbury before settling in Whitehaven in the 1990s.

She worked for a time in the public relations office of Salisbury University, was one of the first announcers at Delmarva's public radio station, WSCL and later had a weekly talk program called "In Touch" at WESM in Princess Anne. Her musical interests included a variety of styles and performers, including Big Maybelle, Maria Callas, Bob Marley and Meatloaf.

She became a master at whatever piqued her curiosity including cooking, art,

gardening, history and more. She was a voracious reader and before Google she always had many volumes of encyclopedia Britannica line her bookshelf, along with a large book on the origin of words that she read before going to sleep each night. She contributed to Metropolitan Magazine, writing profiles of businesses and the magazine's Home of the Month series.

She would greet everyone with "Yoo-hoo" in her British accent, and loved entertaining friends over wine, great food and laughter. She could whip up a vichyssoise, a perfect hollandaise sauce, salmon mousse or a batch of mango chutney, all without consulting a recipe.

Recently she traveled with friends by cargo ship on a tour of the South Pacific's remote Marquesas Islands.

Thompson was a member of the Salisbury Meeting of the Society of Friends and attended meetings regularly. She loved the small town of Whitehaven and was very active in the Whitehaven Heritage Association.

She leaves many friends and is survived by her daughter, Rayne Thompson; two grandsons, Finn and Reed, of California; and her goddaughter, Kate Jangra, of London, England.

The Whitehaven's church bells rang in her honor over the weekend. A memorial service will be held in Whitehaven, MD at a later date, when restrictions on gatherings are lifted.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Tribute Wall

CR

“ *It was always such a pleasure to see Wendy at Whitehaven events. She was so interested in how I and my family were doing. I grew up in Whitehaven, and when I got married in the church, she let me change at her house. I will miss seeing this sweet lady.*

Cara Griffin Rozaieski - May 24, 2020 at 03:24 PM

PW

“ *Pam Workman lit a candle in memory of Wendy Laing Thompson*



Pam Workman - April 30, 2020 at 10:47 AM

JA

“ *I met Wendy at the extension office where she and other Master Gardens often came in to meet. She was a greatly supportive member of the extension advisory council. She was a ray of sunshine that brightened our days. I will miss her "pop-ins" to retrieve the crisps she left behind, to pick up literature, to help make up to-go boxes or just to chat for a short bit. Sincere condolences to her family and friends.*

Jo Ann - April 30, 2020 at 09:35 AM



“ 11 files added to the album *Memories of Wendy*



Pamela Barefoot - April 29, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Pamela Barefoot - April 29, 2020 at 02:30 PM

GD

“ I can honestly say I am a better person for having known Wendy. She had a rare gift of being not only beautiful on the outside, but even more beautiful on the inside. I’m so grateful for the time I had with her-she was my dearest friend. I will always treasure the laugh we had while I was digging up flowers down the road a ways (Wendy was my look out) and of all things up rolls DNR!!! - Needless to say, Wendy, with all her charm, got me out of trouble. I think she could charm a snake! No one could resist her. LOL She was one of the most genuine people I’ve ever known and my life won’t be the same without her. She was so good to my dad for so many years. My heart will always hold her close. It was an honor to call her my friend. Gwynne Davis

Gwynne Davis - April 28, 2020 at 08:31 PM

DT

“ I could never say enough about how wonderful and caring Wendy was. She was my close friend for 35 yrs and I will miss her so much..our monthly luncheons of sharing and laughter..she was always so much fun to be around..She loved to share those grandsons pictures and videos..oh how she loved those little boys. And she was so proud of Rayne and what she had accomplished..she had so many friends and we all will miss her terribly..Dixie Thomasand my 89 yr old mother who would join us occasionally, Betty Sterling.

Dixie Thomas - April 28, 2020 at 10:36 AM

KL

“ Wendy and I were going to share caring for a raised bed garden at Westside Community Center with hopes of engaging the youth at the summer day care there. I will miss her as a master gardener and also miss that I never realized she was a Quaker also. I am an infrequent attendee of the same meeting and never realized it....

Kline - April 28, 2020 at 10:33 AM