



William Ward – IN MEMORIAM

William Ward crossed the threshold on Sunday, October 5, 2008, in the presence of his wife Andy and their two daughters, Claire and Rosemary, at the age of 61. He was a beloved class teacher at Hawthorne Valley School from 1976 until his sudden retirement in 2005 when he retired to deal with the diagnosis of a brain tumor.

Originally from Michigan, William majored in English literature as an undergraduate at Columbia University before studying elementary education at the Waldorf Institute of Adelphi University, where he received a master's degree. William was a Waldorf class teacher for twenty-five years at Hawthorne Valley School in Harlemville, New York, from 1976 until 2005. He had taken three full classes from grades 1 to 8 and was in the fourth grade with his fourth class when he retired.

A lover of the theater, William wrote numerous class plays and festival presentations and collaborated in all-school musical productions. His sense of humor, personal warmth, wisdom, and courage inspired generations of children. He was cherished by his colleagues and friends and will be deeply missed.

He is the author of *Traveling Light – Walking the Cancer Path*, a personal account of his journey through his illness, from shock to inner rebirth, and to the gradual discovery of light in the darkness.

At the end of the book, William writes:

“As we part, here at the edge of Death Valley, I feel like an old prospector handing over a weather-stained chart. ‘You take this map, sonny. Where I’m goin’ I won’t be needin’ it no more. But while you’re here on the earthly plane, I want you to know there is water, the water of life, deep down, right here. Yonder, atop Solomon’s knob, is the Mother Lode—pay dirt, pure gold, the sun’s tears. The way up is steep. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other. Up on top you can see forever. Goodbye, God bless and good luck!’”

And goodbye, God bless, and good luck, dear friend.