



Sandra Rae Friedman

April 28, 1945 - February 9, 2021

Sandra "Sondra" (Wartel) Friedman, age 75, wife of Charles "Chuck" Friedman, formerly of Doylestown Pennsylvania, and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, passed away on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 after a courageous 5 year battle with ALS. Born on April 28, 1945 in Middletown, Connecticut, she was the daughter of the late Dorothy (Greenberg) and Matthew Wartel.

After graduating from Boston University with a degree in Art History, Sondra travelled extensively throughout Europe, and returned to Boston, Massachusetts to manage one of the oldest Art Galleries in the country. She married her husband in 1968, and opened The Sondra Friedman Art Gallery in Philadelphia in 1975. She later went on to earn her MSW from the University of Pennsylvania and, as a Licensed Social Worker, established her own private Marriage and Family Counseling practice in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Sondra loved to travel the world, especially to exotic locations, such as China, Thailand, India, South Africa, and several countries in Central and South America.

While traveling through Mexico on an art tour 51 years ago, Sondra fell in love with the 500-year-old colonial town of San Miguel de Allende in Mexico's central highlands, known for its baroque Spanish architecture, thriving arts

scene, and cultural festivals, and she always dreamed of returning there. After 35 years of residency in Doylestown, Sondra and Chuck moved to San Miguel in 2011, and remained there until their recent move to Montgomery County to enable Sondra to better deal with her illness.

In 2015, Sondra's life was forever altered when her speech patterns began changing, and in 2016, she was finally diagnosed with ALS, a debilitating neuro-muscular disease. The first thing to be affected was her voice, and when she totally lost her ability to speak, she needed to find an outlet for her emotions, and a creative focus to fill her time.

In 2016, while in San Miguel, she began working with a highly experienced instructor who helped develop her skills in lamp work beads--- a type of glass work where a torch is used to melt the glass and form the beads, which she then made into jewelry: bracelets, necklaces, and pendants.

In 2018 (and having never held a paintbrush before), she looked to painting as another creative outlet in an effort to maintain and strengthen her dexterity. Using watercolors as her medium, she chose to focus on a subject that fascinates many people, both in the United States as well as Mexico ---the exquisite colibri (hummingbirds) that are found everywhere in San Miguel de Allende. Her initial efforts in capturing the colibri on paper were remarkably successful and, as she continued to paint, she was fortunate enough to sell her hummingbird paintings at The Biblioteca (Public Library) in San Miguel, and donate all the proceeds to the ALS Association in Philadelphia as a modest contribution towards its critical support and vital research.

Painting these delightful creatures required fine, detailed brush strokes, but the ongoing loss of strength in her arms and hands soon made this difficult, if not impossible. Sondra then adjusted her painting technique, and changed the focus of her subject matter to things like flowers, street scenes, and building

facades, which required less detailed attention, and could be painted with broader brush strokes. Sadly, and all too quickly, what she was able to accomplish in a day or two soon took several days-sometimes weeks. But the pleasure she received from seeing her finished works---and the encouragement she got from her family and friends ---gave her the strength to keep picking up her brushes until she was no longer able to do so.....

In addition to her loving husband, Sondra is survived by her children: Jason A. Friedman, and his partner, Aisha Kent, of Hinesburg, VT and Alexis, and her two children, Anaya and Marcus; brother: Lawrence, husband of Sheila Wartel, of Woodbridge, CT; and brother-in-law: Robert, husband of Barbara Friedman, of West Hartford, CT.

A Celebration of Sondra's Life will be planned (both here and in San Miguel) for a time when family and friends can gather safely together. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Sondra's name to The ALS Association, Greater Philadelphia Chapter, 321 Norristown Road - Suite 260, Ambler, PA 19002. Arrangements are being handled by the Cattermole - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Royersford. Condolences may be offered online at www.RoyersfordFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall

DP

“ Thank you, Friedman family, for posting Sondra's obit in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. I was a member of her 1983 class; she was in the "grown up" section while I sat at the kids table ... Nonetheless I will remember her presence and grace. I feel sure that her healing touch changed many lives. I can only imagine how much she will be missed. Please know that your grief is with me.
Darsha Primich Batavia IL SW1983

darsha Primich - January 17, 2022 at 10:05 AM

MM

“ Dear Chuck and family,

I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to you and your family. I attended Hale Ray High School with Sandra. We had not been fortunate enough to renew our acquaintance since, but I have many fond memories of the giggles and good times we shared. I especially remember her visits to my house at Lake Hayward in the spring and summer when we could paddle around the lake in our family's canoe and into the swamps searching for pretty swamp flowers. Attempting to pick a few was a real "hoot" since they all had very long and slippery stems coated in slime! We nearly tipped over the canoe several times. What a lot of laughter that created! My Mom told us we could be heard all over the lake.



Sandra fought a difficult and courageous battle. She was fortunate to have you at her side.

Marion Thomas Manning

Marion Thomas Manning - February 23, 2021 at 02:21 PM

LT

“ Dear Chuck,
Please accept Chuck and my heartfelt condolences on Sondra's death. The last I saw and communicated with her were at Candy's at Christmas time a few years ago. Even though she could not speak, she had her ipad handy and used it to talk....Her high spirits, sense of humor, and smile spoke volumes about her as a person. Your devotion to her is admired greatly, too. I did not know about her turning to painting as therapy in the past few years. What a multi-talented woman she was!! Her hummingbirds are beautiful!!!!
much love, Lucy Travers(Candy's mom) and Chuck Levine

Lucy Travers - February 15, 2021 at 08:26 AM

EB

“ From the time we shared at Girl Scout Camp (when her braces got caught in mosquito netting), to the parties in her basement and the fun we had getting reacquainted at a high school reunion, time spent with Sandy was always fun.
It is sad to hear that she has passed. Her courage while living with a terrible disease is an inspiration.
Chuck, may her memory be a blessing to you.
Bill and Ellenmarie Bush

Ellenmarie Bush - February 14, 2021 at 05:29 PM

LW

“ 7 files added to the album Sandra paints



linda Whyman - February 14, 2021 at 03:05 PM

CC

“ So grateful to have been able to care for Sandra during her last days, and to meet Chuck, her spouse. Thank you for the wonderful care you provided her, Chuck. Our time together was short, but I will always remember you both.

Chelsea

Chelsea Cook - February 14, 2021 at 02:34 PM

RB

Chuck
Our deepest sympathy to you and your family on the loss of Sondra to ALS, with love Renée & Howard Blaker

Renee Blaker - February 14, 2021 at 02:59 PM

TC

I am honored to have spent the last few months getting to know Sondra and Chuck. I will miss her smile when she saw me and her stories she couldn't wait to tell me. ALS is a horrible disease but, it never broke her spirit. Traci Cappel

Traci cappel - February 14, 2021 at 03:46 PM

NM

Dear Chuck. My thoughts are with you at this difficult time. Your devotion to Sondra throughout her illness was an inspiration. My heart is with you.

Nonnie Markeset - February 14, 2021 at 05:41 PM

PM

*"Listen, Dummy, jog no more." Oh, Chuck, Sondra jogs no more, but what a run she had with you by her side. No husband could have done more. I hope she and Herb are up there telling jokes to each other.
Love, Peggy Mandell*

Peggy Mandell - February 14, 2021 at 06:34 PM

DA

Dear Chuck, So sorry to hear about Sondra. I didn't get to know her very well, but I don't think any husband could have been more caring than you were. My thoughts and prayers are with you. May her memory be for a blessing.

Dorit Arazi - February 15, 2021 at 01:33 AM

HH

*Dear Chuck,
So sorry to get this news. I knew Sandy from when she lived in Moodus and we both attended BU at the same time. I never did see her again since those HS & college years. We reconnected via the internet a few years ago concerning ancestry which is a major hobby of mine. I will always remember Sandy as vivacious, upbeat and talented
My deepest condolences to you and family.
Harvey C. Hilton: Hometown East Hampton, CT*

Harvey Conklin Hilton - February 15, 2021 at 04:28 PM

DH

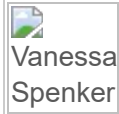
To Sondra's family and brother Larry, my deepest sympathy

Dan Harris - February 15, 2021 at 09:50 PM

ES

My deepest sympathy to Sondra's family and her brother Larry. We were all kids together including Dan Harris in East Haddam, CT

Ellen Miller Friedman Smith - February 16, 2021 at 01:12 PM



Vanessa
Spenker

dear Chuck, please accept my condolences. I am so sorry that you have lost Sondra. Her gentle and graceful spirit will be missed.
Vanessa spenker

Vanessa Spenker - February 18, 2021 at 06:24 PM



SW

Dear Chuck, we were so very sorry to hear the news. Sondra was such a positive presence with such a wonderful sense of humour. The two of you were inspiring travellers and you made a great impression in the few days we were together. No one could have been more caring than you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Susanna and Oliver Grant

Susanna White - February 22, 2021 at 12:52 PM



SW

Chuck,
As your neighbor on Maple Avenue for many years Tom and I were privy to your and Sondra's friendship and gardens. I have still growing in my kitchen a begonia from a cutting Sondra gave me. Your pink house has been painted over twice now but the bones of the garden remain and neighborhood still calls it the Friedman house.
Please stop by and see me.
Sara Webster-Mellon

Sara Webster - March 03, 2021 at 04:27 PM