



## Charles F. Gunther, III

April 7, 1933 - October 5, 2011

Charles F. Gunther III, 78, passed away October 5, 2011 at Swan Creek after years of declining health. Charlie was born April 7, 1933 in Poughkeepsie, New York to Charles Frederick Gunther II and Nellie (Ferguson) Gunther. He graduated from Williams College in 1955 with a Bachelors degree in Art History. After receiving his Masters degree in Fine Arts in 1958 from the University of Colorado, he accepted a job with the Toledo Museum of Art. Under Director Otto Whitman Charlie served as the Assistant Director of Education, developing a program that gave the museum national recognition as the first museum to allow children to work in the galleries. Charlie worked on the logistics of arranging the gathering of artists that would result in the pioneering collaboration of the Studio Glass program with artist like Dominick Labino, Dale Chihuly, Harvey Littleton and Marvin Lipofsky. He brought many interns to work with the museum's educational programs; many of whom would go on to become Directors of their institutions, including the Museum's past Director Roger Berkowitz. In 1965 he was recognized for civic and professional involvement being named one of the ten Outstanding Young Men of Toledo. For 25 years he also served as the Chairman of the University of Toledo Art Department. Many children in Toledo will remember the certificates they received with his signature from the Saturday Art Program he oversaw. In 1990 staff cut backs forced him to leave the Museum. In recognition for his years of service to the arts community, the Arts Commission of Greater Toledo honored him with the President's Award. After leaving the Museum, Charlie

spent many years lecturing and teaching in area colleges, Elderhostel programs and to numerous civic groups. Summers were spent at the family home in North Adams, MA where he consulted on the initial development of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. He lived a lifelong dream by playing the part of Santa for ten years at the old Southwyck Mall. He was a past member of Sertoma Club, a member of First Presbyterian Church of Maumee, and a longtime, dedicated member of the Tile Club.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother Donald Gunther; sisters Dorothy Owens and Marjorie Gunther. Charlie is survived by his wife Barbara of 56 years; his children Beth Sheets (Charlie) of Maumee, Karen Gunther of Dallas and Margaret Hentges (Jim) of Perrysburg; grandchildren Amy and Kathleen Sheets and Megan, Robert and Nicholas Hentges.

Family and friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Rd. on Friday, October 28th from 4- 8 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, October 30th at 3 p.m., with a dinner celebrating Charlie's life to follow, at First Presbyterian Church of Maumee, 200 East Broadway, Maumee. Those wishing to honor Charlie with a memorial contribution are asked to donate to Swan Creek Retirement Village, Spiritual Life Fund.

# Tribute Wall



“ I was sorry to hear of Charlie's passing and extend my sympathy to his family.

*Charlie was a dedicated Assistant Director of Education during the years I was a college art student attending classes at the Toledo Museum of Art's School of Art & Design in the early 1970s. I never got to know him very well, but on occasions that I passed him in the hallway he usually smiled and nodded or spoke a word of greeting or encouragement.*

*I'm grateful to Charlie for having been a steady helmsman for the school. His position posed particular challenges that required particular navigational ability. Perched at the interface between museum administrators and the University of Toledo's college of education, his task was to meet the standards and fulfill the requirements of both institutions. Not always easy. Overseeing a teaching staff of extremely talented and independent-minded artists and art historians required an ability to communicate well with, and engage the cooperation of, a spectrum of idiosyncratic personalities? the metaphoric equivalent of herding cats. It's to Charlie's credit that we students never encountered rough water as we wended our way to our degrees.##imported-begin##Kathleen Everingham kathleeneveringham@gmail.com##imported-end##*

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Hi Barb and daughters: I feel your loss, though I didn't know and iove your man as you did; but Chaarlie was one of the sweetest people I ever knew. I remember having a great talk with him at our 50th reunion--at Phil Smith's house--just before his first heart problem. I am sending uplifting thoughts to you in your pain.  
Best, Mac Nelson '55###imported-begin##Mac Nelson nelson@fredonia.edu###imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Hugs and blessings,###imported-begin##linda and Max Hoetzl###imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Barbara - to you and your family I send deepest sympathy. I was Charlie's secretary back in the mid-80s and was ever so blessed to have known him. Toledo has lost a great freind of the arts.###imported-begin##Mary Lou Miller tngam@comcast.net###imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Beth (and family)--  
I was saddened to see your father's obit in today's paper. You and your family are in my prayers. Toledo has truly lost an inspirational artist who dedicated much of his life to the art community.###imported-begin##Diane Thorpe Mthorpe@bex.net###imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ I was grateful that I was notified of your father's death. We have been out of town.  
Please know that both Wayne and I send our best wishes to the Gunther family. Such happy memories of a talented and loving Dad.##imported-begin##Joyce Davis##imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Dear Gunthers, How fortunate I was to have been one of those children who happily attended The Toledo Museum of Art's Saturday classes. How wonderful it was to have enjoyed this man's charm, wisdom & humor. And how Blessed I am to call his 3 lovely daughters friends & Pi Phi sisters. Thank you Mr. Gunther for sharing such important parts of your life with me. Much Love Janice##imported-begin##Janice Begley Jagodzinski##imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Beth and Family,  
So sorry for your loss. We are thinking of you.  
Fondly,  
Peggy and Ron##imported-begin##Ron and Peggy Lowden##imported-end##

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October 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM