



## Karen Shea Silverman

Karen Shea Silverman, 62, of Charlottesville, died at home shortly past midnight on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2004.

She was born on Dec. 12, 1942, in New York City, to Miriam and the late William D. "Red" Shea. In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her brother, Brian. Along with her mother, she is survived by her husband, Gabriel; and her daughters, Kia and Taije, also of Charlottesville.

Karen was a renowned artist and teacher whose work has been displayed all across the country, most recently at the Bayly Museum with her astonishing show of watercol-

ors, *The Odyssey*.

She attended Cornell, UCLA and Berkeley, and while living in South Africa during apartheid, started the first art school there for African children. This boldness on her part was typical of the way she lived her life.

If she believed something could be done, she was tireless until it got done, a trait that could be seen in her determination to make people aware of — and raise money for — Live Arts, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Tibetan Nuns Project, and in her conviction that any child with the slightest inclination toward art could be creative.

Karen and Gabe were irrecoverably shaped by the 1960s, and as a result, they moved wherever and whenever the spirit moved them. One time, while living in Europe, they decided to return to the United States, but couldn't decide on San Francisco or New York. So they shipped half of their belongings to one city and half to the other, and whimsically agreed that whichever plane left first would be the plane they would board. It has been this community's good fortune that they came here in 1982 and never left.

Karen found tremendous strength in meditation (leading *satsung* sessions from her home when the family lived in Batesville) and the Hindu philosophy of Siddha Yoga, but she never proselytized and she never judged.

She was a devoted daughter, mother and wife, an aunt and godmother, a loyal friend to her friends, a taker in of strangers, a tour de force, and a cultural trailblazer. She leaves an enormous void in our community, but her good work and incandescent presence will long continue to linger and inspire us.

The family would like to thank all of the staff at the Hospice of the Piedmont and the many friends who came to read to Karen during her care at home.

Burial will be at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, at Monticello Memory Gardens. A memorial service in January will be held at Live Arts.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to Live Arts, P.O. Box 1231, Charlottesville, VA 22902; the VCCA, 154 San Angelo Drive, Amherst, VA 24521; or the Tibetan Nuns Project, 2288 Fulton St. #312, Berkeley, CA 94704.

Teague Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.