

# In Memory of Ruthy Charlot

## 4 October 1973 ~ 15 October 2010



*A memorial service in celebration and remembrance of the life of Ruthy Charlot took place on Wednesday, 20 October, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. Elim Chapel, 546 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Canada.*

*Ruthy Charlot was a much loved instructor at Menno Simons College. Her friends, students, and colleagues in Winnipeg will miss her bright spirit, deep thinking, keen learning, and fine teaching. In her short life, she touched so many lives with her warmth, compassion, intelligence, and wisdom.*

### Memorial Service

Prelude	Je ne sais pas le jour ou je verrai mon Roi (Chant d'espérance #251)
Welcome	Reverend Dr. Micheal Curry, Senior Pastor
Scripture Reading	Reverend Marthe Charlot - Psalm 121
2nd scripture reading	Johanna Flores - Psalm 23
Hymn	Je ne sais pourquoi dans sa grâce Jésus n'a tant aimé (#82)
Pastoral Prayer	Reverend Lamont Hardison
Song	Oh quel Bonheur de le connaitre (#17)
Poem	Minister Kimberly Davis (I am free)
Special Presentation	Elsie Augenblick (Maitre, entends-tu la tempête)
Tributes	Dr. Jean-Luc Charlot
Hymn	I Surrender All (#139)
Eulogy	Reverend Dr. Daniel Harden James 4:13-14
Hymn	How Great Thou Art
Special invitation	Reverend Marthe Charlot
Benediction	Elsie Augenblick, Our Father
Pallbearers	Ruthy's Cousins
Interment	Reverend Micheal Curry Reverend Daniel Harden Reverend Lamont Hardison Reverend Marthe Charlot
Hymns	When We All Get to Heaven (#729) I'll Fly Away (#728)

*In memory of Ruthy, the family has established the Ruthy Charlot Memorial Fund to sponsor post-earthquake Haitian students at Menno Simons College in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and research on pulmonary embolism.*

## **Ruthy Charlot Memorial Service**

*Excerpts from Opening Remarks of Dr. Richard McCutcheon*

Good afternoon — I welcome you on behalf of Menno Simons College, The University of Winnipeg, and Canadian Mennonite University. My name is Dr. Richard McCutcheon. I am Dean of Menno Simons College.

We are gathered today to honor, to celebrate, and to remember the life of Ruthy Charlot. In the words of my own faith tradition, we are gathered today to Witness to the Grace of God as Seen in the Life of our friend Ruthy.

Ruthy Charlot first approached Menno Simons College in the summer of 2009 inquiring about the possibility of working with us in the Conflict Resolution Studies program. We immediately sensed in Ruthy a very special presence. We hired her to teach the Introduction to CRS course and a course on Communication and Conflict. This term she was again teaching the Introduction to CRS – several of her students from that class, students who are deeply saddened by the loss of a much loved instructor, are here with us today.

In her short time at MSC, Ruthy made countless friends. Her bright light, friendly smile, and keen engagement with students and faculty were irresistible. Indeed, her social networks went far beyond the classroom walls. Most recently she was deeply committed to her work with the Haitian community, in which she has deep roots.

Early on Friday morning I was sitting in my office at the college beginning my work day when I received an urgent message delivered in person from a University of Winnipeg colleague saying that Ruthy had passed away suddenly that morning at the age of 38. As we worked to disseminate this tragic news, it quickly became apparent that Ruthy's life had touched all of us at the College in deep and abiding ways.

Today, on behalf of Menno Simons College, Canadian Mennonite University, and The University of Winnipeg, we offer our sincere and heartfelt condolences to her family and friends – some of whom are here with us today.

We wish for her mother (Rita), her father (Jean-Baptiste), and her brother (Jean-Luc) to know just how deeply their daughter and sister was loved and cherished as a friend, colleague, and mentor here in Winnipeg.

*A number of friends then shared their experience of Ruthy, through reflection and songs. Following the service, guests gathered for refreshments at Menno Simons College in a classroom where Ruthy taught.*

## Ruthy Charlot Biography

Ruthy Charlot was born in Ottawa, Canada on October 4, 1973. Beloved daughter of Dr. Jean-Baptiste Luc Charlot and Nurse Rita Charlot, born Rita Evenou, Ruthy was the older of two (2) children. She had a brilliant scholastic career beginning at the Joseph Kennedy Memorial Kindergarten in Hyde-Park, Massachusetts. Her star continued to shine at Holy Rosary Elementary School as well as Westminster Christian School where she obtained her High School Diploma in 1991. Ruthy then earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology at the Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences in Ithaca, New York. Afterward, she initially sought to further her studies in the field of international policy before being moved by the ongoing plight of the suffering in our society and rededicating herself to her psychology education.

Her interest in improving the living conditions of the multiethnic populations of South of Florida led her to volunteer with the Switchboard of Miami Hotline in 1999. She also became Active in other community activities and was her father's right hand in his obstetrics/ gynecology practice in Miami. A year later, she became a psychometrist with Miami-Dade County, helping to identify developmental problems in 2-5 year old children, as well assisting their parents in addressing these problems. She continued to have a burning desire to use her intellectual abilities for the good of the community, and while pursuing her Master's degree, worked as a graduate assistant on various community research projects. These included providing technical assistance and supervising a computer lab for the Barry University Department of Psychology, and working part time as a translator for "the SMART-EST Woman's Project of the University of Miami School of Medicine – a project that aimed at improving the wellbeing of minority women suffering from HIV/AIDS. In 2002, Ruthy obtained her Master of Science Degree in Psychology from Barry University.

All the while, Ruthy continued to assist her father in developing his busy OB/GYN practice. She was responsible for implementing innovative processes for state and federal compliance, human resource management and technology enhancement and training. Her interest in the well-being of children and families led her to become certified in Family Mediation and become a Guardian Ad Litem – a court appointed special advocate for abused and neglected children. From 2005 to 2006 Ruthy worked as counselor at Pace Miami-Dade, an alternative school for at-risk girls, finding solutions to put the girls back on the right path.

Always fascinated by Canada, the country of her birth, Ruthy's interest in writing led her to Vancouver for a Creative Writing convention. There, she fell in love with the beauty of the island and eventually moved there. She would only stay in Vancouver a short time, however, and soon moved to Winnipeg, working as a mediator and translator and offering her services for free as a consultant in psychology. In Winnipeg, our Ruthy really makes a statement. She was soon offered an instructor position at Menno Simons College of the University of Winnipeg, where her skills as a brilliant communicator revealed themselves in her teaching.

Already an accomplished writer – she co-authored the book "Saving Haiti / Saving the World," published in 2008 with her father – Ruthy devoted herself to teaching and writing while making her life in Winnipeg. She was a popular member of the community, welcomed with open arms by her colleagues, her students and her friends from diverse backgrounds. She embraced them with equal fervor. Most recently, the devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010 provided an opportunity for Ruthy to again demonstrate her gift of advocacy for the suffering when she lobbied the University and obtained college admission and all-expense-paid fellowships for five young Haitian students. This was to be her last act of philanthropy.

Ruthy Charlot passed away on Friday, October 15, 2010.