

Wedding—Eric Bare and Meshele Merchant

July 16, 2017—Pasadena, MD

When Eric learned on July 2, 2017, that he had an incurable and terminal brain tumor, he and his long-time lover, Meshele Merchant, decided it was time to get married. A lovely, bitter-sweet and poignant wedding was quickly arranged, attended by twenty of the closest friends and relatives, at the home of Dick and Kate Jones (Eric's mother). A close friend, Thomas Atkinson, empowered by the State of Maryland to perform weddings, officiated in the presentation of a beautiful, poetic, secular ceremony.

Eric's half-sister, Shari Bare, a professional photographer, flew in from Texas and documented the day with a great collection of images. We show a select group here. Note it was a shoeless event. The Renaissance garb, if possible, was at the bride's request.

The groom, Eric Bare, and his best man, "Snacks" (Dan Machovsky), in cape, await the entrance of the bride. In blue tights, Thomas Atkinson, a minister of the Universal Life Church, waits to officiate.

The bride, Meshele Merchant, enters, exquisitely made up and in Renaissance garb complete with elf ears; on right, best maid, Jessica Dove.





The wedding ceremony with Thomas reading some moving passages, the loving couple holding hands, and best man and maid of honor playing their parts.



Thomas' program included selected readings by family and friends.

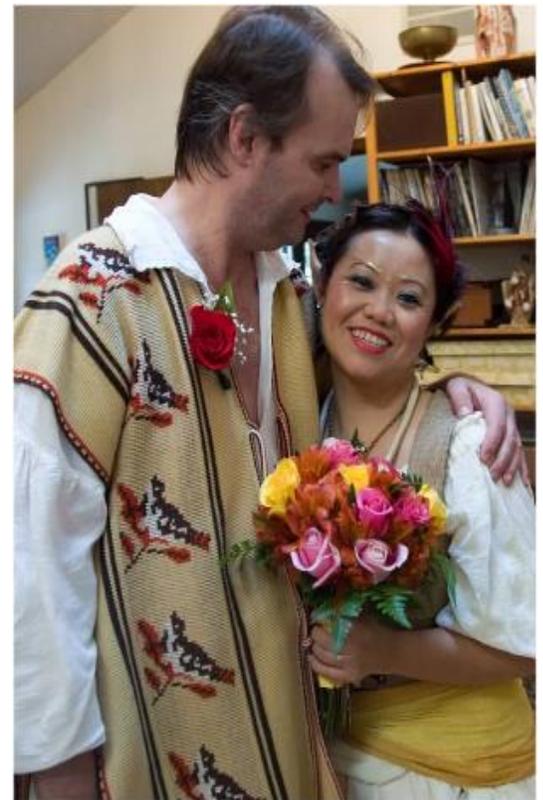
Below, left to right: The readers—Kate Jones, Eileen Shaivitz, Katrina Weidig.



[If you'd like to see the individual passages comprising the ceremony, please inquire by email to kate@gamepuzzles.com.]



"I pronounce you husband and wife!"
"You may kiss the bride..."



Many hugs shared from all the wedding guests, followed by refreshments and the cake...



Left to right: Triple cape hug with the best man, Snacks, who flew in from Minnesota; old-time family friend, Armin Feller, with Meshele.



Above, left to right: Josiane Smith and Meshele; Dick Jones and Eric; Eric with another old-time family friend, Tony Krauth. Left: mother and son in a toast, a happy moment with an undercurrent of resignation to the few months still left to share this world.

Some of the wedding guests gathered in the spacious ballroom that was also Eric's living area (his wardrobe hanging on improvised ropes). *Left to right: Kate, Katrina, Eileen (reading), Josiane, Rita Krauth, Sue Bare (Eric's sister, in red, also below), Richard Grainger.*





Others who brought warm smiles—
Left: Hans and Katrina Weidig, newlyweds whose wedding the year before took place at the Maryland Renaissance Festival. Here they share a tender remembrance. They look wonderful in garb.



Right: The regal maid of honor, Jessica Dove, who traveled all the way from Minnesota for this occasion.

Below: Refreshments are served. Meshele in animated conversation with Don Sakers, a renowned author of science fiction books and the spouse of Thomas Atkinson.



See more about Eric's life from links on www.gamepuzzles.com/eric.pdf and www.gamepuzzles.com/helpers3.htm#Eric



The festivities viewed in mirror; in center behind camera (and inset, upper left), Shari Bare, who took all the photos in this album. We thank her with warm appreciation for sharing this collection. A separate collection of photos, by Art Blumberg (in black, with white plume in photo above), was presented, with an album, to the couple as a much-appreciated wedding gift.



Left: Josiane and Sue cut the cake.

Right: Love forever, in hearts and memories.



P.S. Eric passed away in his sleep, peacefully, on the morning of October 4, 2017. He will never be forgotten. Sadly, Meshele has chosen to go her own way, deciding not to remain as a member of our family. A chapter of life has closed...