

## Memorial Minute for Lauren Erickson

January 10, 1959 - February 4, 2012

Lauren Erickson was born Loretta Lynn Summerfelt in Winter Park, Florida to Donna Summerfelt, nee Horner, and Robert Summerfelt. Her mother died in 1982.

At two weeks old she and her parents moved to Southern California. Growing up she also lived in the San Francisco Bay area, West Virginia, and New Jersey. She changed her name to Lauren in 1981.

Lauren married David Erickson in 1977 in the Mormon temple in Los Angeles, California (she was a member of the Mormon Church from 1976 to 1981). They made their home in Pasadena, California. Their eldest daughter, Brooke, was born in 1979, followed by Lara in 1980, and Emma in 1987.

Lauren attended classes at Pasadena City College from 1976 to 1984 and transferred to UCLA, where she completed her baccalaureate in Linguistics, graduating summa cum laude, and receiving the department's highest honors, in 1986.

From 1987 to 1991, she operated an in-home daycare, and also taught English as a Second Language to adult immigrants in Los Angeles.

Lauren entered law school at UCLA in 1991, where she graduated in 1994. Upon passing the Bar, she worked as an associate attorney at the law firm of Musick, Peeler, and Garrett in Los Angeles.

In 1991, she first started experiencing symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis. As her illness progressed, she had to take a disability retirement from her work in 1996.

In 1998, Lauren and David began attending Orange Grove Meeting in Pasadena, California. They became actively involved in that Meeting and the Religious Society of Friends. Lauren, David, and Emma moved to Port Townsend in 1999 and became actively involved in the Port Townsend Worship Group. They started our practice of placing monthly queries on our worship chairs.

While the worship group was discerning whether to become a monthly meeting, Lauren and David realized they wanted to do this discerning as members of the Religious Society of Friends. Because the worship group was under the care of University Meeting, they joined University Meeting in 2002. Later that year, they were part of the large group of Friends transferring their membership from University Meeting to the new Port Townsend Monthly Meeting.

On many First-Day mornings, we were gifted with Lauren's inspired ministry. Lauren served the Meeting faithfully in many capacities. As the first treasurer after the Meeting was recognized as a monthly meeting, she set up the books and created

the first budget. Lauren served on Ministry and Counsel Committee, Finance Committee and many clearness and support committees. Midweek Meeting was held at the Erickson home for five or six years until Lauren's death.

As her physical abilities diminished, Lauren focused on her inner life, discovering ways to expand her life to be a force for good in her world—with her family, friends, and many people in the community. Her vibrant spirit enriched all she touched.

Lauren's interests included roller skating, camping with her family, snorkeling, swimming, dogs and dog training, cooking, and above all, nurturing her children and grandchildren.

Lauren had a brilliant mind, with a gift for writing and languages. She was also an adept interior decorator, with a keen sense of color and design, and loved to have her house open for community events and gatherings. Her home was a peaceful haven to many friends.

An exceptionally organized person in all areas of her life, Lauren delighted in helping others learn organizing skills. She had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and a passion for learning about the world around her.

Lauren often said that the most important thing in her life was connecting with other people by listening to them and sharing with them. For 12 years, she was a member of a very close women's group in Port Townsend.

A memorial service for Lauren Erickson was held on February 8, 2012. Following her wishes, she had a green burial in the Meadow at Green Acres Memorial Park in Ferndale, Washington.

Lauren is survived by her beloved husband, David, and by Ruth Erickson, David's mother. Lauren often said that Ruth was "as good and true a mother as I could ever have wanted." Lauren is also survived by her loving family: her daughter Brooke and wife Sera; her daughter Lara and husband Aaron; her daughter Emma and partner Brian; her four grandchildren, Evie, Lena, Marjorie, and Luz; her father, Robert Summerfelt; her sisters Anne Kinsinger and Ellen Kinsinger, and her spiritual sister and best friend, Paula Joyce.