

Laura Martin Memorial Minute

Laura Martin was a longtime member of our Quaker community in Port Townsend. She passed away on June 7th, 2024, after an evening of singing and dancing on the beach in nearby Irondale. She was 73 years old.

Laura was a talented singer with an awesome repertoire of songs. She was also an expert weaver who could visualize and carry out complicated designs.

Deeply connected with countless people through singing and through her welcoming greetings to anyone she met, she was recognized as an icon in the community. People organized many gatherings and song circles in her memory.

Laura served on the Meetinghouse Committee throughout the many years that we spent looking for a Meetinghouse. When we finally were able to purchase a building, Laura was thrilled. She helped in every aspect of making the Meetinghouse ours as we put in a kitchen, installed larger windows to let in more light, and tended the native plants in our landscaping. She organized fundraising concerts featuring some of her many musical acquaintances.

Because of Laura's deep and wide connections in the community and regionally in the folk singing world, we held her Memorial Meeting for Worship at the much larger Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship building. The meeting went on for several hours, concluding with a large song circle in her memory. Laura requested that flowers come from people's yards – not from the store.

Quakerism, music, dancing, and weaving were touchstones all her life. The goal of equal treatment for everyone and faith in the human ability to love and respect one another fueled her every day.

Here are some words of remembrance and love, from many friends:

Port Townsend's bright morning star • She danced like she lived — unapologetically, always her own muse • She was plainly well-loved by many • Laura's soul was full and deep. • Honest, straightforward, and sassy. • Tenaciously community-minded. • Laura lived, breathed, and danced music. • A giving, tender soul. • She was so exactly who she was, without apology. • A quintessential Port Townsend character. • Absolutely lived life on her own terms. • A gentle, kind hearted, and special eccentric soul. • She was everywhere. • Singing, folk dancing extraordinaire. • Full of spark, gruffness at times, and a deep love for the world. • What a free spirit! • Fly with the angels Laura. • Shine on, you crazy diamond — we celebrate you. • Laura, in all your glory, we love you. • Laura, Laura, goodbye barefoot girl.