



Cynthia Murray

October 14, 2016

Cynthia Murray, 72, of Ellensburg, WA died peacefully in her daughter's home in Portsmouth, VA on October 14, 2016. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Cynthia called Ellensburg home for almost 20 years and had a deep appreciation for the people and beauty of the Kittitas Valley. She received her B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Nebraska and her M. Ed. in Counseling from Boston University.

Working as an Academic Advisor and Counselor at Old Dominion University and Central Washington University allowed Cynthia to do what she loved best – teach, mentor, and help others discover their best path. She also founded and operated a successful desk top publishing and translation business, Word For Word, in Norfolk, VA which operated under her leadership from 1984-1998.

A CWU “Woman of the Year” award recipient, she was the Co-founder of Our Environment climate action group and the Ellensburg Vegetarian Society. She served as President of the Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation and was a devoted volunteer there for many years. A dedicated environmentalist and activist for peace, Cynthia was a tireless advocate for sustainable living and social justice. She had an insatiable interest in the world around her and felt profound joy when connecting with others. Her passions included gardening, knitting, reading, her husband, family, and finding humor

in all things.

Cynthia was preceded in death by her parents Clarence DeForest and Gertrude Elizabeth Platt, as well as her eldest brother Charles DeForest Platt. She leaves her beloved husband James Lyman Schwing; daughters Sara Elizabeth Sigmund Brame of Cape Elizabeth, ME and Amy Brooke O'Donnell of Portsmouth, VA; grandchildren Nathan, Trevor, Declan, Elisabeth, and Kaleigh. She is also survived by her brother John Murray Platt of Rancho Murieta, CA, first cousin Ann Baugh of Chino Valley, AZ in addition to a host of beloved cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held in Spring 2017 in Ellensburg. Rev. Bill Graves and Rev. Lita Malone will officiate.

Memorial gifts in Cynthia's memory can be made to Kittitas Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation 400 N Anderson St, Ellensburg, WA 98926 and Gentiva Hospice Foundation 5544 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Tribute Wall

JL

“ James L. purchased the Cylinder Remembrance Holder for the family of Cynthia Murray.



James L. - October 20, 2016 at 06:29 PM

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BH

“ With sympathy for all of Cynthia Murray's family:

My memories of Cynthia remain so vivid that they remind me every day to emulate her tolerant warmth toward others, her work to gain peace and prosperity for many and not just a few, her cheerful courage in the face of life's challenges. I hope that these and other memories will console you as you mourn her death.

Beverly Heckart

Beverly Heckart - October 19, 2016 at 09:18 AM

LN

“ Dear Jim, Amy, Sarah and all family members,
Such a huge loss - I can't really wrap my head around it yet.
Someone gone who was so full of life, love and laughter - life I
guess is just not fair. I will miss her and remember her fondly every
time I knit, wear the color purple or eat dark chocolate. She was a
true friend and a great woman. I am so sad that I won't be going to
her house to knit next month like we had planned, but I am thankful
that if she had to leave us, at least she was with her favorite people.
Lynn Niemi

Lynn Niemi - October 18, 2016 at 08:58 PM

CG

“ Jim,
I am sorry to hear of her passing. Cynthia was a great role model
and an inspiration for me. She truly made this world a better place.
Carol Gilliom

Carol Gilliom - October 17, 2016 at 11:18 PM



“ Cynthia was such an inspiration, mentor and friend. She will be
greatly missed. Sympathy and prays to her family. I think of her
often. Pat Cort

Pat Cort - October 17, 2016 at 02:13 PM

LC

“ Dear Jim and family,

You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I
always enjoyed my visits with Cynthia.

In His Love, LaVelle Clerf

LaVelle Clerf - October 17, 2016 at 01:15 PM

VS

“ Cynthia was a kind and loving being who made room in her life for many people. She will be very missed by all her knew her. Her wisdom and wit were simply the best. My sympathies to Jim and the family. Vicki Sannuto

Vicki Sannuto - October 16, 2016 at 08:38 PM

FM

“ I knew Cynthia from so many different circles! Except for meat, Cynthia championed every cause in which I believe -- what an amazing, inspirational woman. Her help on my successful 2007 campaign for City Council was unexpected and tremendously valuable. I'm so sorry I didn't see more of her the last couple of years as she and I both fought health battles, and I'm so sad to hear of her passing. Condolences to Jim and the family.

Ps - not til this obit did I realize she was a deForest! All this time...we were likely cousins :)

fennelle miller - October 16, 2016 at 08:27 PM



“ *The first time I met Cynthia was at the door of KVVUUC on a Sunday morning. Her warm welcome was so comforting as I entered a church for the first time in a decade. New in town, new to UU - but I felt at home immediately.*

When she invited me to stay after and sit in on the board meeting, I was stunned. Why would I want to do that?! But then, it occurred to me that there might not be a better way to "look behind the curtain" and see what the congregation was really all about.

Cynthia's love for her community and her dedication to the UU experience was inspirational. She touched so many lives. Her warm welcome that day, changed my life and invited me into an incredibly loving community. I am so grateful to her for this and for oh, so many little things. She is missed.

I'm sending my love to her family and to the communities she has served. May we navigate this transition together with warm hugs and quick smiles as we witness and care for each other - the Cynthia way.

*Blessings,
Coleen Renee*

Coleen Renee - October 16, 2016 at 06:34 PM

VD

I count Cynthia as one of my dearest friends. Jean-Clare and I t visited the Kittitas Valley UU congregation once or twice on trips West, while still living in Ohio (but thinking of relocating here). When we had actually moved, and showed up again at KVVUUC, Cynthia recognized my voice from another room!

KVVUUC was/is important to both of us. We each attended many board and council meetings together; she could read my scrawl, type up meeting minutes, and get them sent out quickly. We also attended the Thursday evening knitting group together a few times.

I wrote to her daily for many months during her illness, and felt very close to her at that time. Her smile, her listening ear and welcoming shoulder were important to me. She will be sorely missed.

A friend, Vivian Dunbar

Vivian Dunbar - October 18, 2016 at 04:19 PM