



Anne Warren Smith

July 3, 1938 - March 13, 2015

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Anne Warren Smith, 76, loving partner of Jerry Pollari, slipped away on March 13 at her home in Corvallis.

Anne was preceded in death by her parents, Thurman and Laura Warren of New York. She is survived by her life partner, Jerry; two daughters, Amy Beltaine and Rebecca Smith of Portland; and one grandchild, Sierra Pele Dymond-Smith of Salem. She also is survived by her brother, Jack Warren of Minnesota.

Anne grew up in upstate New York and graduated from Cornell University in 1960. At Cornell, she fell in love with and married Frederick J. Smith, father of Amy and Rebecca. After moving to Corvallis in 1965, they joined the folk music community and made many lasting friends. Aside from being a loving mother and wife, Anne also found time to fulfill her lifelong dream of being a writer.

Over the years, Anne's interests and roles continually evolved: writing teacher, singer and washtub bass player in The Virgin Frets, Camp Fire troop leader, stepmother to Amity Wrolstad (Jerry's daughter), knitter and beader of beautiful objects, guitar and harp player, and published author. She worked

many years as the events coordinator of the Oregon State University Music Department and the Best Cellar Coffeehouse, a folk music hub.

She was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2010, but, with treatment and perseverance, overcame the disease. In 2012 Anne's ovarian cancer returned for the last time, after 15 months of remission. She continued to enjoy her life fully, loving deeply and well until the end.

Her creativity, humor, grace, deep appreciation for each and every human being, and enthusiasm for life will be greatly missed by her family, friends, writing students and fans.

A celebration of life will take place at 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, 2945 N.W. Circle Blvd., Corvallis, OR 97330. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Vina Moses Center (<http://www.vinamoses.org/gifts.htm>), which serves families in need in the Benton County area, and where Anne volunteered for more than 40 years.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Anne offered respect in a class of new and seasoned writers. Remarkable how, without judging, she taught us to really see our own writing. What a kind and gracious teacher to encourage us so!

Cheryl Martin - March 19, 2015 at 03:17 PM

SW

“ We so enjoyed knowing Anne as an author. She was a wonderful children’s author and it was a joy to collaborate with her on the readings she did for her books. Anne had such a serene and graceful spirit about her; it seemed as if time slowed down when we were in her presence. Sandy first met her at the Corvallis Folklore Society song circle many years ago and loved hearing her sing; she had a beautiful singing voice. She touched so many of us in the community; we will miss seeing her beautiful spirit. Our thoughts are with her family.

Sandy Smith and Jack Wolcott, Grass Roots Books & Music

Sandy Smith, Jack Wolcott - March 18, 2015 at 08:06 PM

CD

“ Christine Duffney lit a candle in memory of Anne Warren Smith



Christine Duffney - March 17, 2015 at 10:28 PM

RL

“ I met Anne twenty five years ago. I was looking for an editor for my first book, and I was lucky enough to find her. Not only did she correct my many grammatical errors, she gave that book—as she gave her own books—an unmistakable and inviting voice.

In her quiet and respectful way, Anne helped me see how much more I had to learn about writing. I took classes with her and discovered that she was as great a teacher as she was an editor.

As the years went by, Anne became a mentor for me. When I was writing essays on dealing with my aging, physical decline, and mortality, I talked with Anne about a couple of them. This was after she had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer. With no obvious hesitation, she asked to read the essays. After she did, she encouraged me to dig deeper into my feelings and to share what I found. I hesitated and she encouraged. I followed her advice, learned more about myself, and improved the essays. What a gift from someone who was already dealing with her own feelings about cancer and death.

Sometime during that quarter century, Anne and I became friends. We enjoyed meeting for coffee and talking about writing and a host of other subjects. I so enjoyed seeing Anne smile, hearing her laugh, and listening to her clear and meaningful thoughts.

My heart goes out to Jerry and the rest of the family, as well as the community of writers that she touched and helped in countless ways.

Rick Lamplugh

Rick Lamplugh - March 17, 2015 at 07:52 PM

MC

“ Anne was such a gracious, talented, and warm person. I worked with Anne when she was the Publicity Coordinator for the Music Dept. at OSU. Her office was actually just next to mine, and we had many wonderful conversations during the day. I also took Anne's courses in writing at LBCC 20 years and more ago, as well as workshops as recently as a couple of years ago. I last saw her a few months ago walking to her car in front of the Beanery near Market of Choice. Even though she was quite thin and frail, I recognized her walk immediately from about 100 feet away; grace and class. Too young to get sick; too young to die. So much she gave to so many writers here in Corvallis. The word "condolence" comes from two words which mean "in sorrow/suffering together." I suffer together with Jerry and the rest of her family. Michael Coolen



Michael Coolen - March 17, 2015 at 10:03 AM