



Linda Anderson Chisholm

April 27, 1939 - August 17, 2022

Linda Chisholm died peacefully in her sleep on August 17, 2022. She wrote her own obituary, including this first line, five months before her passing. She said she just planned on going in her sleep, and so it was. The remainder of the obituary has been modified, however, as it was far too modest and tad dry.

A resident of Corvallis, Oregon, Linda spent her final weeks in her home with the help of Lumina Hospice, and in the constant company and care of her loved ones. It is no understatement that she was adored by all who knew her, for her giant heart, endless capacity to give, and infectious spirit. She was quirky and playful, with a subtle sense of humor, and enjoyed gently breaking all the rules. Linda said that she disliked doing everything the same way all the time, so worked hard to change things up. She was intensely curious, delighted in life, and never failed to surprise. She was also radiantly beautiful, inside and out, and her smile lit up the room. Most of all, she loved freely, and passionately espoused, "We are all one." Indeed, she hurt for the world's hurts, and worked hard to make the world a kinder, more tolerant, and just place for all.

Linda was born to Rhea Mitchell and Mildred Squibb Anderson in Greeneville, Tennessee on April 27, 1939. The family moved to Orlando, Florida at age nine, where she had the life changing experience of swimming with a dolphin. Linda graduated from Edgewater High School in 1957. She completed her

undergraduate education at Stephens College (1959) and the University of Missouri, Columbia (1963) in English Literature.

Linda married Clive 'Scott' Chisholm in 1963, and started a family. The couple lived in various places, including Missouri; Indiana; Wisconsin; Massachusetts; Maine; Ontario, Canada; New York; Utah; and Oregon. Over the years, they amassed a large and diverse group of close friends, as well as, an inordinate number of beloved pets. Mostly strays, this included a cross-eyed Siamese, obtained for free when Linda threatened to report the pet store owner for abuse, only to discover the skinny kitten was refusing to eat out of loneliness; a narcoleptic Vizsla, named Porkchop; and a rescued schnauzer, who slept with Linda, and also wore an eye mask to bed.

Linda earned a Master's of Education in Learning Disabilities from the University of Rochester in 1974. She was employed as the first special education teacher at the Canandaigua Primary School, in Canandaigua, NY. She taught for 12 years before accepting a clinical education position at Genesee Hospital in Rochester, NY. She relocated to Logan, Utah with her husband in 1988. There, she worked for 15 years at a Utah State University program in various capacities; as an employment specialist for persons with mild disabilities; a coordinator for an assistive technology program; and, a learning disabilities diagnostician and education program developer in Logan and on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations. Linda had a gift for teaching, and for helping her student's find creative ways of learning. Years after retiring, she would receive notes of gratitude from former students, grateful for the tools she gave them, or relaying how they felt stupid until she identified and explained their specific learning disability.

Linda and her husband moved to Corvallis, Oregon in 2005 to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren, after Scott suffered a severe stroke. She cared lovingly and selflessly for her husband until his death in 2007. As

her daughter proclaimed, she then became “The Busiest Retired Person Ever.” Linda joined ALL, bible study (Emmaus), a book group, poetry groups, centering prayer, the Stonybrook Emergency Preparedness Committee, Nia, the NAACP, and an interfaith group working for universal health care, among others. She volunteered for Hospice, the homeless drop-in center, the women’s shelter, No One Dies Alone, St. Vincent Du Paul Outreach, and the soup kitchen, and was a tireless advocate for Healthcare for All. In her free time, she took salsa lessons, cultivated a friendship with the neighborhood crows, and embarked on learning to play the harp.

Linda relished every moment she shared with her daughter and family, especially after the necessary distance they kept from the covid pandemic and her compromised health. There was a joyous ‘first’ embrace with her grandson after he became eligible for vaccines; and a memorable ‘first’ holiday meal where she delighted that her son-in-law wore a fancy hat. Linda found significance in all the small moments. Once, when her teenage daughter complained about her chores, she told her to do them as if she was doing them for God, because every act or responsibility has importance. As a Mamaw, she rejoiced in attending ballet performances, school events, and spending time with her granddaughter and grandson. They made famous their ‘Mamaw texts,’ which were sometimes non-sensical or arrived in multiples, as she learned a new skill. Linda had an enormous number of close friends, as she genuinely and generously shared her heart with others. In Corvallis, she made a “family” in her new community, attending Friday night happy hours and monthly birthday parties with neighborhood friends.

Linda was preceded in death by both parents; a son, Sean Mitchell Chisholm; a granddaughter, Amelia Garrison; nephew, Tim Carter; and, her husband, Clive Alexander (Scott) Chisholm. She is survived by a brother, Samuel Richard Anderson (Marybeth Anderson), from Chattanooga, TN; a daughter,

Laura Caitlin Chisholm (Patrick Garrison); two grandchildren, Francis Finn and James Ry Garrison of Corvallis; a son, Christopher Budd (Tom Lavash) from Truro, MA; Sister-in-law, Laura Carter; and numerous nieces and nephews. Linda was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Corvallis. A funeral Mass will be held for her on October 7, 2022 at 11 am. She will be interred at the Oakwood Cemetery in Corvallis, alongside her son, and with her late cat, Squeaky Clean. The Memorial Mass will be live streamed, To watch, please copy this link: https://youtu.be/f5_uwJzOyDE

Linda was a closeted writer until friends from her poetry group encouraged her to self-publish her body of work. She completed a poetry collection, *What Does One Say*, shortly before her death. Her wish was to donate all proceeds from the sale of the book to help Ukrainian refugees in Corvallis' sister city, Uzhhorod. To purchase a book, please go to <https://sistercities.corvallis.or.us/support-our-refugees-in-uzhhorod>. Please note there are a limited number of copies. In lieu of flowers, donations can also be made directly to The Uzhhorod Refugee Fund, Citizens Bank, 978 Circle Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330, or <https://gofund.me/a28dca8d>.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

OCT 7. 11:00 AM (PT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church
501 NW 25th Street
Corvallis, OR 97330

The Memorial Mass will be live streamed, Memorial for Linda Chisolm, Friday October 7, 2022 Copy this link: https://youtu.be/f5_uwJzOyDE

Tribute Wall

JN

“ It has been over thirty years since I worked with Linda at the Center for Disabilities at Utah State University but we kept in touch throughout the years after each of us moved from Utah. As a young psychologist, I loved sitting with Linda as we explained the result's of our team's conclusions and recommendations to the families of the children we had the honor of assessing. Linda was so good at making families and children feel good, at showing the families the potential of the children whom we assessed. I learned so much from her. And, what a friend she was to my wife, Jan, and me. I loved the gatherings at Linda and Scott's beautiful home, sharing food, drinking wine, reading poetry, laughing, and just being friends. Kaitlin, Patrick, Finn and Ry, Linda loved you all so much and that was very evident in her correspondence to me over the years. God, thank you for allowing me to know Linda Chisholm. She has been a blessing in my life and I am grateful to her.

John Neece - January 23, 2023 at 08:38 PM

PA

Yes, I agree... she was a blessing in our lives.

paul - May 01, 2025 at 06:51 PM

JR

“ Linda was a lifelong friend who excelled in everything she undertook. She loved people and they loved her. Her smile did literally light up a room, and no one ever had a more supportive friend. She will be ever missed, but never forgotten. I love you, Linda. Dear friend, Rest In Peace. Joan Dial Ruffier

Joan Ruffier - October 06, 2022 at 10:48 AM

CP

“ Hi,

I am so sad to hear that Linda's has passed, but happy to know that she died peacefully in her sleep.

I worked with her for a number of years at the Genesee Hospital Developmental Unit where we both did testing of children with learning disabilities. She and I became friends and have kept up with Christmas letters. I can tell two memories I have of her when we worked at the Developmental Unit. One day she came to work wearing unmatched shoes. She is the only person besides myself that I have known to do that.

The other memory is of an incident she shared with me after she completed testing a young boy with auditory processing difficulties. One of the tasks was timed and when the time was up she told the boy to put down his pencil. She turned away to get something from her drawer and when she turned back he was standing there with his pants pulled down and around his ankles.

Christine Steerman PhD - October 03, 2022 at 08:07 PM

MN

“ *Clive Scott Chisholm, the late husband of Linda, was my second cousin. The last time my husband and I saw Linda and Clive was at a camp on Tobacco Lake, Manitoulin Island, On. There are so many memories, pictures, a Family Tree, that will be cherished and remembered for the rest of our days on this planet. We send our condolences to all of you. Cate, bless you, for being there to the end. Linda, was a very special person. Knowing my cousin, Clive, he could be quite a challenge. (Smile) We will meet again in glory. Marlene and John Newland, St. Catharines, On. Canada*

Marlene and John Newland - October 03, 2022 at 02:18 PM

LB

“ My husband Gary and I have been married for nearly 17 years. He was already in Logan, while I came from NJ -- thus, he had known Linda from St. Thomas Aquinas Church for a long time. Linda always wanted him "to receive more hugs!" She was so delighted when he "met his OWN Linda" who loves to hug him and whose hugs he happily returns. When I finally got to know Linda, who was by then no longer living in Logan, the kinship bond was immediately strong between us. Her light helped ignite my own, which keeps passing along without end, thank God.

Linda K. Bradak - September 24, 2022 at 09:26 AM



“ All my life I heard stories about Linda Kay and how alike we were. Then when we finally met in person we fell in love with each other immediately. We've never lived in the same state, and are not of the same generation, yet each time we met it was the same feeling of kismet. I sooo miss her and always will. God Bless YOU Love. Cate Cathy Burton Conti (cousin.)

Cate Conti - September 23, 2022 at 06:00 PM

TH

“ One Halloween Linda and her sister dressed up like witches, the front door to the house was open for kids to come in. Linda stood in the dining room pointing toward the living room where her sister stood by a caldron of candy for kids to choose from. As the kids were leaving Linda let out a blood curdling cackle that sent the kids flying off of the porch, many didn't even touch the stairs. It was awesome.

Tim Henshaw - September 23, 2022 at 01:08 PM

LC

*I love this memory of my sweet aunt. She was such a unique person.
Thanks for sharing :)*

Lauren Carter - October 04, 2022 at 02:40 PM

CB

*I only knew Linda a short time but her Light was so obvious. I feel so
blessed to have known her even in the short time I did. Cammie Bella*

Cammie Bella - October 04, 2022 at 07:01 PM

RC

*It is with immense sadness I read of Linda's passing.
I met her towards the end of my Moms life.
Linda was my Moms angel and I know for a fact she is now doing more
work of an Angel.
I was so comforted to know my Mom had a lady of Linda's stature in
her life.
Linda.....may you now soar with the Eagles and Crows.
I know you are with my Mom.
All my love.
Rosmarie Candelaria*

Rosemarie Candelaria - December 27, 2022 at 06:30 PM

PA

*Linda was a wonderful, radiant and stellar woman. You are deeply
missed!*

Paul - May 27, 2023 at 05:54 PM