

Marion's Obituary

Marion Sinclair

September 20, 1945 - April 22, 2019

Marion died shockingly suddenly, days after receiving a diagnosis of terminal, untreatable cancer.

Marion died on Earth Day. One of her dearest friends said, "It would have been more appropriate for Marion to have been born on Earth Day. She so quietly and steadfastly worked in support of a wide range of environmental issues!" And she did. She supported the Nature Conservancy, Green Peace, Sycamore Land Trust, among many other organizations. She was an invasive species warrior. She was a trained wild life rehabilitator and a wild flower expert. Many of her friends have wild ginger growing in a shady spot in their gardens from transplants brought from Marion's land on Raccoon Creek in Owen County.

Marion was an Historic Preservationist. She belonged to and supported BRI locally and Indiana Landmarks statewide. She volunteered regularly at the Hinkle-Garton Farmstead. She loved beautiful old houses and owned and lived in one of the most charming little Victorian homes in Bloomington. She served on a committee to restore gravestones and beautify Rose Hill Cemetery. Several years ago the Monroe County History Center offered a Halloween Tour of Rose Hill Cemetery. Marion dressed in a complete 19th century widow's outfit, with black dress, veil and gloves and stood at a point along the tour. She provided information about Rose Hill when people passed by her.

Marion was a certified scuba diver. She sailed her own Hobie Cat. She hiked the Grand Canyon to the bottom in 1993 and 1997 with one of her dearest friends.

She was a dancer. She was a contra dancer, a swing dancer and for many years she danced with International Folk Dancing at IU.

Marion was a carpenter. She built a lovely, tiny cabin in an isolated spot on land she owned in Owen County. She built it by herself, using hand tools .There was no electricity in the woods. And when vandals burned that cabin down, she rebuilt it!

Marion graduated from IU in 1967 with a degree in Social Work. Several years later, she returned to Nursing School and earned her RN. She retired a few years ago from Bloomington Hospital, but for decades before her retirement, you or a member of your family may have received Marion's calm, competent and compassionate care in the Emergency Department. She kept her hand in health care, part time. You may have recently been served by her at the YMCA in the Cardiac Rehab Program.

Marion held and nurtured the vision of a cohousing community for many, many years. Now at last, her dream is manifesting, and the community is becoming a reality for other people to live in.

Marion was a humanist, an agnostic, and a 40 year member of the Unitarian Universalist Church. She supported social justice in many ways through UU and the larger human family through generous contributions to the International Rescue Committee, Partners in Health, Amnesty International and the ACLU.

Marion was born and grew up in Indianapolis. She was preceded in death by her mother, Ruth Knierim Sinclair, her father, William Sinclair, and her sister, Ellen Sinclair Witham. She is survived by her dear cousins, Dennis Knierim in Mooresville, Lorrie Knierim Lipps and Benita Book in Indianapolis, and Jody Bauer in Conifer, CO.

So many people in Bloomington had their lives touched by Marion. But few people knew of her many, many facets. She was a true, good friend. She was funny and insightful and playful. Marion's grieving friends can hardly imagine how we will manage the heartbreakin loss of her. We loved her. We miss her.

There will be a celebration of Marion's life at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2120 North Fee Lane on Wednesday, June 12th at 2:00.