

A Collective Poem for Laura Magnani

Created on October 4th, 2020 among Laura's friends during Retirement Party


Caring Spirit

I give thanks for a woman who has always been fighting for a world with justice.

I give thanks for Laura's life and spirit, and am thankful for your being in my life.

I give thanks for Laura's tenacity and powerful voice

I give thanks for the way Laura's eyes light up when she smiles.

I give thanks for Laura's love 

I admire her courage to walk against the wind

I give thanks for your generosity of spirit.

I give thanks for Laura's extreme patience and persistence (Forrest Penn)

I give thanks for the model of moral strength and unlimited support. (John)

I give thanks for the best sister on earth (Andrea)

Laura's faithfulness and steadfastness. (Sandy Kewman)

Laura's ability to be present (Stephen McNeil)

I give thanks for her steady intelligence (Jeanne Diller)

I give thanks for Laura's example of steadfastly working for a better world even as it steadily got worse, even in her own field of so-called "criminal justice." (Carl)

I am thankful for Laura's love for her family and the joy she has when splashing in the ocean with her grandchildren. (Mica)

I give thanks for your inspirational fighting spirit for changes. (Paul Redd)

The way Laura *sees* people impacted by the punishment system and amplifies their voices and organizing (John Lindsay-Poland)

I am grateful for Laura's passion for justice especially for prison reform. Laura's walk my dog almost everyday and my dog wags her whole body when Laura comes over.

I am grateful for Laura's desire to help AFSC be our best self.

I am grateful for Laura's commitment to serving the people who are most neglected by the criminal justice system.

I am grateful to Laura for her tireless work and remarkable successes in criminal justice reform. A woman with a true leading. (Mico Sorrel)

I am grateful for a life long friend who always understands the principal and the detail of justice action. Laura has sustained hope and has the humility and compassion and trust to work with incarcerated persons. (Liza Klein)

I am grateful for Laura's inspirational, Spirit-led work and her thoughtful, warm, frank way of sharing her personal experiences in our friendship. (Dinah Bachrach)

I give thanks for your humble yet fierce commitment to deep listening, relationships and justice. (Matthew Leber)

I'm thankful for clear thinking and insight embodied in joy. (Tom Rothschild)

I am thankful for Laura's work for prison reform without losing the vision to abolish prisons entirely. (Bob Langfelder)

I am thankful for the inspiration that I have received over the years watching Laura in action. One of the reasons that I decided to become an AVP facilitator in prison is because of Laura's actions. (Denise Mock)

I am thankful for Laura's courageous perseverance. (Kris Muller)

Many identify Laura with work against prisons, but she was "presence" in many projects, committees, efforts e.g., (Lawrence Livermore)

I am thankful for Laura's vision, persistence, the glint in her eye, and the way her wisdom can transmute hard questions into flowing toward justice.

I give thanks for Laura's authenticity of sharing her inner journey, and her capacity for deep friendship and loyalty. Catharine Lucas

I give thanks for Laura's amazing ability to talk in depth about prison reform to political folks. Elaine Emily

I give thanks to Laura for her steadfast dedication to changing the world. Roberta Schutz

I give thanks to Laura for her steadfast dedication to changing the world. George Millikan

I give thanks for Laura's grounded presence. Cindy Trueblood

I give thanks for the depth of her personality. Kathleen Mock

I give thanks for Laura doing the impossible again and again. Peter Magnani

I give thanks to Laura for her integrity, humility, leadership, and friendship. Also torrone! Deborah

I give thanks for Laura's work in prison reform in California. Jane Krause

Laura's experience, kindness, persistence make the world better.

Essential transformative work.

The passion Laura brings honing herself

I give thanks for Laura's compassionate and strong stands for justice and shared times on the line like Nuremberg Actions

I give thanks to Laura for her endless fighting. Now I get to have contact and family visits with my husband. My husband Gabriel was in solitary for 29 years, and is not on the mainline in prison and we appreciate everything she's done for all of us.

Laura lives the quaker truth that the "how" we work is as important as the "what" we work on.

I give thanks for Laura being a North Star and for all the students I have given Beyond Prisons to.

I give thanks for Laura's indomitable determination to end the carceral state.

I give thanks for Laura's doggedness in undergoing tedious processes.

I give thanks for Laura's faith-based devotion to criminal justice.

I give thanks for her digging deep into discernment of social power concerns.

I give thanks for her kind and strong leadership in our Quaker community.

I give thanks that I met Laura as soon as I retired and moved to Berkeley because she kept me from sitting in my rocking chair.

I give thanks for the ripples in the stream Laura created when she began

I give thanks for being an amazing role model of how to depend on faith to be courageous in the world.

She always welcomed feedback not only into her heart, but into her home. (Dolores C)

For co-producing a spectacular son! (Claire G)

I give thanks for Laura's mentorship, warmth, and determined, skillful advocacy. (Eliz Fraser)

I thank Laura for her honesty, admitting that Quakers created the prison system that we are now working to end. (Tom Yamaguchi (he/him))

An attendee who is blind spoke this: For climbing many mountains, swimming through many rivers, and tramping through lots of land.

I am immensely grateful to Laura for her friendship, guidance, and love. (Myrna)

John McCathy: for your life of service especially for prisoners, justice, and peace (John McCathy)

For being you! (Naneen)

Laura's Poem- We are thankful

Laura lives the quaker truth that the "how" we work is as important as the "what" we work on.

Caring Spirit. A woman with a true leading.

I give thanks for the ripples in the stream Laura created when she began.

I give thanks for the depth of her personality.

For climbing many mountains, swimming through many rivers, and tramping through lots of land.

I give thanks for her being an amazing role model of how to depend on faith to be courageous in the world.

I'm thankful for clear thinking and insight embodied in joy.

I give thanks for a woman who has always been fighting for a world with justice.

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I give thanks for her digging deep into discernment of social power concerns.

I give thanks for the model of moral strength and unlimited support.

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I give thanks for Laura's mentorship, warmth, and determined, skillful advocacy.

For your life of service especially for prisoners, justice, and peace.

For being you!