

Sheila Anne Lyons May 22, 1931 to June 29, 2023

For many years, Sheila would attend our Meeting, and her life actions spoke to our testimonies. She was always seeking and questioning among Buddhists and Episcopalians, as well. She was a mother of six, widowed at age 48, who successfully raised them all to seek and question as well.

Sheila's husband, Robert (Bob) Lyons, served during the Korean war. She kept all of his letters to her from Korea in a carpet bag and carried it with her to an FCNL lobbying visit with the military staff representative from Senator Reid's office. Reid's staff representative had come to our meeting house, curious about our organization. Friends were lobbying for a responsible limit to the military budget and requesting more accountability from the military on how they spend their money. Sheila's presence with her bag gave a weighty sincerity to our session with Reid's staff.

Working as a tax consultant and estate planner, she financially supported her family and in her later life Sheila had energy left to actively participate in the lives of her grandchildren, taking them on cross-country trips with their friends. She cared greatly for the environment and served on the Stonington Borough Planning and Zoning, the Town of Stonington Conservation Commission and the Stonington Historical Society. Many times we saw her speak truth to power over some conservation issues or in efforts to conserve the community. She spoke with her own lived history, which many respected.

After the children were grown, Sheila felt called to more activism, including The Raging Grannies, which would meet regularly at Westerly Monthly Meeting in the basement to practice songs calling for peace and justice.

Her friends, family, the Raging Grannies, and Westerly Friends will all miss Sheila's dry humor, intelligence, and sometimes acerbic presentation. In her heart she was always building community.

RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS

(Sheila's favorite Raging Granny song, sung to the tune of "She'll be Coming Round the Mountain")

Oh we LIKE our veggies without pesticides

And our meat without those hormones placed inside.

We like fish without PCBS

And our forests to have TREE-ses

We are radical ENVIRONmentalists!