

Rebecca Reich

3/18/1956 – 12/16/2016

Rebecca's family and friends lost a beloved, irreplaceable part of their lives when she left us early in the morning of December 16, 2016, after a courageous, private battle with breast cancer.

We are not alone in this loss. The land, waters and wildlife of the county she worked so tirelessly to preserve and protect and the future generations who will be able to enjoy these natural treasures because of her commitment

have also lost a very special friend. For them and through them her legacy and spirit will endure forever.

A long time supporter of the Whatcom Land Trust, Rebecca was asked to join the Board of Directors in July 2007. From that time forward she dedicated herself to furthering its mission of protecting the natural and agricultural lands in our corner of the world. From 2012 until very recently she served as Chair of the Land Committee, bringing her professional skills as a realtor to evaluating and acquiring lands to be protected. She also took great joy in the on-the-ground work required, in wandering through and exploring special places under consideration.

Rebecca also had a life long love of gardening. She received a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, in horticulture from Colorado State University. With her innate eye for beauty in art and nature augmented by her academic training, she created special places wherever she lived, alive not just with flowers but with birds, butterflies, and water. Her eye for beauty and composition, conveyed through her gardens, also found expression in her passion for photography. She approached both with an unwavering respect for detail and dedication to doing the best she could.

Rebecca moved to Bellingham in 1983. Soon after, she began a thirty-year career as a realtor, reaping satisfaction in helping people find their special places. Through hard work and study she earned the highest levels of certification in the field, rising to a position of trust and respect within the local business community.

With her grace and thoughtfulness, Rebecca touched so many in small and large ways. She was a person who would send a handwritten note on a carefully chosen card, on joyous or sad occasions or just to let someone know she cared. She was attentive to and celebrated the meaning and importance of the small as well as the large in life. By her example, she reminded us to always, even in the most difficult of times, be mindful of and thankful for the good and beautiful: the touch of a loving life partner, the grace of ever loving parents, the sweet smell of lilacs, a shared laugh with a friend, a glass of buttery chardonnay, dancing, dark chocolate, fresh local oysters, Dungeness crab, the Beatles, cheese enchiladas from Taco Lobo, moussaka, the smile of a stranger, the color turquoise, a walk on the beach. She treasured them all.

Rebecca loved to explore, whether camping and boating in places dear to her heart near home or roaming far afield. She was passionate about the water and returned often to Deception Pass and the San Juan Islands. She delighted in walking the tulip fields of Holland in May, relaxing on an Italian island in the Adriatic, pitching in with the harvest at the farm of friends in southern France, or following in the footsteps of the Beatles in Hamburg, Germany.

Rebecca leaves behind her beloved husband Dale Johnson and parents Doris and Gene Reich, brother Joe and wife Lori and family, brother Greg and family, cousin Roger Anderson and wife Lori and family, and sister-in-law Patty Morgan and family, as well as a large circle of extended family and friends. A celebration of Rebecca's life will be held at 1 p.m., January 15th at Moles Funeral Home on Lakeway Blvd in Bellingham. Donations in her memory can be made to Whatcom Land Trust. To share your memories of Rebecca and learn more about her life, please visit [Moles Farewell Tributes.com](http://MolesFarewellTributes.com).