

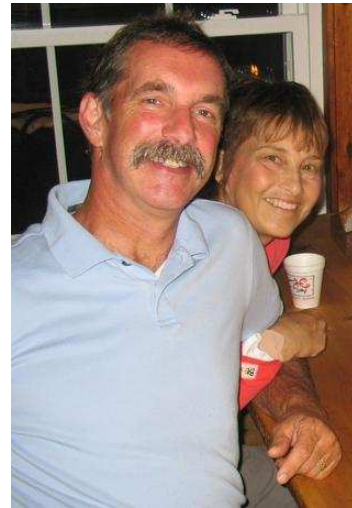
Ipswich loses community visionary

news from the Ipswich Chronicle

By Dan Mac Alpine

Wed Nov 18, 2009, 11:46 AM EST

Ipswich -



Businesswoman. Artist. Mother. Wife. Friend. Social Worker. Teacher.

Robin Silverman fulfilled many roles in her life and she never backed away from growing into new challenges as her callings and talents dictated.

Robin, 54, who touched almost every aspect of Ipswich life with her vision and her service, died early this week, finally succumbing to a series of illnesses.

Thirteen years ago she underwent a liver transplant and had open-heart surgery nine years ago.

“She just had a lot of health issues,” said Rick Silverman, her husband. “She was a pleasure to be with, even at the end. She was just a wonderful lady.”

Robin also leaves three daughters: Jillian, 25; Haley, 24; and Carly, 20.

The family invites the community to a memorial service Sunday, Nov. 22, at the Hellenic Community Center on County Road, at 11 a.m.

“She was so well known throughout the community, we felt we owed it to everyone to have this service,” Rick said. “She was just linked in to a lot of people in town and was very well liked.”

Robin served on the Ipswich Cultural Council, the Ipswich Music, Arts and Drama Association, the business bureau and worked to bring a culturally based use to the old town hall on South Main Street.

Plans for a theater there were just revived at the last selectman’s meeting.

She also owned her own art gallery and coop on South Main Street, which she closed earlier this year because of her failing health.

Robin’s growth as an artist was sudden and unexpected, her husband said.

She had been a social worker, working with deaf children and adults and then changed careers.

“After she got her liver transplant all of a sudden she got involved with art and started taking classes,” Rick said. “And then suddenly she was really into it and doing a whole new livelihood.”

Robin emerged as a professional artist, mastering painting’s trickiest medium — watercolors — first selling her paintings through her gallery and then also teaching watercolors.

“She just really became a good artist and sold a lot of paintings and taught a lot of people,” said Rick. “She just couldn’t keep it going because of her health.

“The Ipswich estuaries are what she really loved.”

And, “She loved bombing around in her Cooper Mini.”