

Her last project, *Riparian Worlding: Mayan Life and Anti-Extractivism*, focuses on political ecology, river ecosystems, and indigenous knowledge.

Diane received the cancer diagnosis with the exceptional grace and selflessness she brought to all of life. She gave us the gift of her beautiful smile until the end.

Diane is survived by her partner, Mark Driscoll; parents, Lois Nelson and Donald and Judith Nelson; sister, Erika Nelson (Steven Townsend); brothers, Brian Nelson (Natalia Vergara) and Philip Nelson (Kana Mizuguchi); sixteen nephews; and four nieces.

## Announcements

Water and compostable cups are available on each of the 2 picnic tables. Use your own container if possible. Put used cups in the labeled buckets.

Place words, pictures, flowers, and other mementoes on the altar.

For information on Diane's grave: [sites.google.com/view/diane-m-nelson](https://sites.google.com/view/diane-m-nelson)

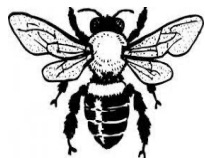
Donations in Diane's name may be sent to:

The Maya Educational Foundation ([mayaedufound.org](https://mayaedufound.org))

Greenpeace ([greenpeace.org](https://greenpeace.org))

## With Gratitude

To: Julia Hartsell, *Heartward Sanctuary* ([heartwardsanctuary.org](https://heartwardsanctuary.org)); Sommer Sobin, *Thousand Petals Yoga* ([thousandpetals.com](https://thousandpetals.com)); Paperhand Puppet Intervention ([paperhand.org](https://paperhand.org)); Phillip Thalheimer, ([myprophotographer.com](https://myprophotographer.com)); and to organizers: Mark Driscoll, Erika Nelson, Brian Nelson, Michal Osterweil, Karen Booth, and Elyse Crystall



and especially to

***Diane***, for your spirit, wisdom, creativity, generosity, and rabble-rousing, and for the joy you brought us all; ***we will never forget you***

# A Celebration of the Life of Diane M. Nelson

Carrboro, June 12, 2022



***"Occupy Chapel Hill!"***

Photo by Michael Schwalbe,  
January, 2012



SCAN ME

or go to  
[sites.google.com/view/diane-m-nelson](https://sites.google.com/view/diane-m-nelson)

# Program

**Ecstatic Dancing**.....10:15

Led by Julia Hartsell. Join in as and if you feel able and moved to do so.

**Paperhand Puppet Intervention**.....11:20

**Service**.....11:45

Raga Music: "Sorrow"

Mark Driscoll on the Sarod

Poem: "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver.

Brian Nelson

Opening

Sommer Sobin

Poem: "Perhaps The World Ends Here" by Joy Harjo

Erika Nelson

Remembrances

Kathryn Williams

Jason Tonio Woerner

Ben Nelson

Fernando Luera

Jackie Orr

Arturo Escobar

Paula Worby, Liz Oglesby, and Amy Ross

Poem: "When Death Comes" by Mary Oliver

Michal Osterweil

Poem: "On This Day" by Lea Goldberg

Elyse Crystall and Karen Booth

Closing

Sommer Sobin

# Diane M. Nelson (June 5, 1963-April 27, 2022)

Diane Michele was born in Oxford, Ohio to Donald N. and Lois E. (Genn) Nelson. She was a bookworm, horse lover, poet, campfire girl, director of backyard plays, and outstanding soprano. She performed in the high school orchestra and show choir, starred as Daisy Mae in *Li'l Abner*, and was a member of the debate team and honor society.

In 1980, Diane began her lifelong relationship with Latin America as an AFS exchange student in Merida, Mexico. As a National Merit Scholar at Wellesley, she discovered her passion for cultural anthropology and met her mentor, Beatriz Manz, who inspired the research on Guatemala that Diane would pursue for over four decades.

Diane began researching conditions in post-civil war Guatemala in 1985, driven by her commitment to oppose militarization and US interference in Guatemala and to bear witness to the struggles of the Guatemalan people.

Amidst her trips between Boston and Guatemala, Diane met Mark Driscoll, then a Boston musician and activist. Mark and Diane began the greatest love of their lives and a partnership that would last for 35 years.

As a Ph.D. student in anthropology at Stanford, she continued her focus on indigenous Guatemalan life-worlds and politics. Diane joined the anthropology faculty at Lewis and Clark in 1996. A life-changing inspiration to many students, she was named Oregon College Teacher of the Year in 1998. The following year, her brilliant first ethnography, *A Finger in the Wound*, was published. Diane moved to Duke in 2001; built a "glo-cal" community of activists, scholars, and students; and published many articles and two more ground-breaking books on Guatemala: *Reckoning* (2009) and *Who Counts?* (2015).

Always eclectic and multi-talented, Diane practiced yoga and earned a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. A longtime social justice activist in many movements, Diane fought for reproductive rights, supported Occupy, was arrested twice on Moral Mondays, and led the Red Rebels as part of Extinction Rebellion (XR).

Passionate about the environment, Diane loved keeping bees and playing outdoors, especially with her nephews, Ben and Lucas.

*(continued)*