

JANETTE GRAINGER

1942-2009 Community Activist

In 1977 Janette brought her worldly knowledge, and newborn son Jonah Mesritz, to Austin, Texas, where she resided until 1997. Janette was a flagship video-journalist, environmental activist and mainstay within the 'Keep Austin Weird' movement. She donated office space to Austin Public Television, mentored local journalists, organized political action committees, and dedicated herself to environmental protection causes including the preservation of Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and the overall improvement of Austin environmental causes. Janette worked endless hours composing educational tabloids and making TV commercials urging the defeat of bond issues that would result in infrastructure harmful to the environment, all the while urging Austin citizens to elect political candidates who promised earth-friendly agendas. One of her greatest protests involved preventing a waste-to-energy incinerator from being built; through persuasive writing, activism, and organization, the Austin City Council abandoned its \$34 million dollar project, convinced of the harmful effects it would pose to the environment. Janette wasn't only a committed civil servant, but a woman passionate about music, the arts and animals. In both Holland and Austin, her specialty store Folk Toys featured the artisanal dollhouses, trains and other educational toys. Also in Austin, she co-authored the book 'Natural Insect Repellents for Pets, People and Plants' which served as a guide to living free of chemicals. In 1997 Janette moved from Austin to Hawaii and then to San Diego for a short period; during this time she bought and sold Thai Hill Tribe jewelry, operating a lucrative e-commerce business. In 2006, Janette traveled one last time to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Here Janette lived in a mostly male ex-patriot community, where she was accepted as confidante and teacher. No matter where in the world Janette Grainger was, her tenacity didn't just touch people's lives, it changed them; she voyaged through life resolute and surrendered to death with similar fearlessness in May of 2009.

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