Laura Ruth Clower, of Grinnell, died on Sunday, July 29, 2018, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. Her family was with her.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, Aug. 2, at Herrick Chapel on the campus of Grinnell College. Kirsten Klepfer officiated, and friends and family shared readings and music.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to PALS (Poweshiek Animal League Shelter), mailed in care of Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared at www.smithfh.com.

Laura was born on November 24, 1958, to Susan Ward Clower and Robert Park Clower, Jr. in Asheville, North Carolina, where she grew up. She graduated from The Newfound School in 1976. Laura received her undergraduate degree in psychology from Brown University in 1981, and in 1985 completed a Masters in speech pathology at Boston University. She worked as a speech pathologist in the Boston area for 14 years.

In 1999, Laura moved to Carlsbad, California, with her newborn son, Robert, and her mother. While in California, she taught private piano lessons. She also played bagpipes with the Cameron Highlanders of San Diego. Laura took pride in her son Robert's love of music.

Laura moved with her family to Grinnell in the fall of 2014. She continued to teach piano, and was active in a local poetry group, yoga classes, and the Grinnell Oratorio Society. She also played with the Turlach Uillean Pipe Band.

Laura is survived by her son, Robert Charles Clower; her mother, Susan Ward Clower; her brother, Robert Park Clower III; her sister-in-law, Nancy Rempe Clower; and her nephews, David Rempe Clower and Thomas Kiely Clower, all of Grinnell. Her father, Robert Park Clower, Jr., died in 1995.