

# IN ALL HER STRENGTH

in memoriam for Jeannine Chartier (1953-2023)

Fierce advocate  
with the bold laugh  
stripe in her mane and that *so glad*  
*to see you* smile Jeannine Chartier  
made no apologies for kitsch or kickass  
or the space she claimed never a minute  
taken for granted on the beach  
or singing to women working in the mill  
dog sledding in Alaska impromptu salsa  
at Waterplace Park bona fide nut  
fearless pioneer of true and open heart  
Jeannine "I mean, really" she'd say  
"Let's just do it" always holding on  
for the real talk chanting for miles  
at the march through the river  
of beautiful women able abled  
Cajun dancing resolute Jeannine standing  
at an open door in the bright sunlight  
strong silhouette of vibrant warrior palette  
and the hair that fabulous outrageous hair  
with flowers twined divine in flowing skirts

where there was work    Jeannine moved forward  
courageous all-time    favorite drinking buddy  
always kind    a fighting kind of goddess  
of fabulous resistance    bearing innovative  
witness to how art    moves the people forever  
at her *Lesbian Enclave*    on the patio  
personal healing place    for the low  
serious discussions    of the hard work ahead  
until the end    relentless beauty of Jeannine  
forever floating    in the dark    green waters  
of a secluded cove    at Beavertail    lifted by  
the waves    and glistening    in all her strength

**--Versified by Tina Cane**  
Poet Laureate of Rhode Island