

## Short Biography of Laura Compton



*February 22, 2013*

Born in Manhattan, NY May 26, 1967 to an Episcopal Priest and English teacher, Laura (Stevenson) Compton spent her most early years in very rural Huslia, Alaska. In 1973 Laura and her family (which now included her sister, Andrea) moved to Ontario, Oregon. There her father pastored and her mother taught in the Fruitland, Idaho school district, just across the Snake River.

Laura attended public school in Ontario, graduating from high school in 1985 and spent the summer on a European tour. Laura returned, spending a year at local Treasure Valley Community College. During these years she was active in the concert band, the high school newspaper, her church youth group, worked at a local buffet and took several years of ballet and jazz. She transferred to Oregon State University in 1986, where she earned her degree in Psychology.

In 1990 Laura met Anthony Compton—a Bonners Ferry native. They fell in love and were married that August in Bonners Ferry. They made their first home in Corvallis, Oregon where husband Anthony also finished college. Laura worked with Kelly Temporary Services and became the 1990 employee of the year. This landed her a position with the chemistry department at Oregon State University and ultimately with AntiVirals Inc. (now AVIBiotech), an R&D Biotechnology company. Wearing several hats, she was the secretary, HR department and Purchasing agent for AVI's scientists. Laura gave birth to their firstborn son, Anthony Michael, in 1995 and left her position with AVI to stay home with her newborn.

Laura and her family moved to Hood River, Oregon for a few months and then on to Kansas City, Missouri. While there, Laura became mostly self-taught in the art of silk

and dried floral design. She spent time with a local garden club, where the other members (mostly flower show judges) taught her a thing or two about floral arranging and gardening.

Laura and Anthony's dream was to find their way back to Bonners Ferry and live on a small piece of property he had inherited from his grandparents. The opportunity came when husband Anthony gained employment with CEDU Family of Services as an accountant. That involved spending almost three months in Pacific Grove, California, helping to move the company's accounting department from Monterey to Sandpoint, Idaho.

By January 1999 Laura and her family's dream came true and they moved into their new home on the property. Laura gave birth to their second son, David, in September of that same year. She remained a stay-at-home mom, making floral arrangements from home.

Within three years Laura continued her education at Sar Shalom Hebraic Studies in Bonners Ferry and eventually came to teach Ancient Hebrew classes and other studies. Laura also enrolled in Wilton cake decorating classes and became a custom cake decorator. Today she also teaches basic cake decorating to local residents.

Somewhere in between raising two little boys, decorating cakes and teaching Hebrew classes, Laura taught herself to make natural cold-processed soaps, using all vegetable ingredients. In addition to keeping her family clean she makes these soaps available to her community.

One of Laura's interests since childhood has been photography. She has recently begun pursuing photographic art-again-and loves to share her creations with others.

Laura is a technician level amateur radio operator and works part-time as a cashier at Bonners Ferry's own Akins Harvest Foods.