

Laura Branigan  
**OTHER HALF**  
ENTERTAINMENT

and  
**LAURABRANIGANONLINE.COM**  
present



The 2011 Laura Branigan  
*Spirit Of Love*  
Memorial Gathering

Long Island, NY  
August 5-7, 2011

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# Event Itinerary

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## FRIDAY, AUGUST 5<sup>th</sup>

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Registration & Greeting
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Laura video footage
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Dinner on your own
6:00 PM	Leave hotel for beach (FIRM)
6:45 PM	Arrive at beach
7:00 PM - 7:45 PM	Beach Memorial / Private reflection on beach
7:45 PM	Return trip to hotel
9:00 PM - 10:30 PM	Meadowlands, NJ Concert, 1998
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	LB Music Videos

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup>

prior to 10:00 AM	Breakfast on your own
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM	Memorabilia Display
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Laura Trivia Contest with Video
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Lunch on your own
2:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Laura video footage Final band performance, Mohegan Sun, January 2004
4:30 PM - 6:45 PM	Dinner on your own
6:45 PM - 7:15 PM	Candlelight Memorial
7:15 PM - 7:45 PM	Group/Individual Photo session
7:45 PM - 8:15 PM	Laura Q & A Session "Fan Forum": share your thoughts on Laura
8:15 PM - 9:30 PM	Hold Me Tour Choreography and Band Rehearsals
9:30 PM - 10:00 PM	LB TV: Automan
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	Viña del Mar Festival, Chile, 1987

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 7<sup>th</sup>

prior to 9:00 AM	Breakfast on your own
9:00 AM	Gather in lobby for casual Sunday outing Including Sag Harbor, Westhampton Beach, and East Quogue

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# Memories of Laura

By Michael Bolton

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Laura Branigan was a joyful, spirited singer with a great sense of humor and love for life. Fortunately for me and my co-writer Doug James, a beautiful powerful voice was her instrument in delivering our song “How am I Supposed to Live without You,” and later, “I Found Someone.” But on “How am I...” she had connected so personally, and delivered the vocal performance that made it a huge hit record for us. It was pitched to a few more established artists at the time, but I'm so grateful Laura was the one who got the shot to help make it become one of the most played songs in pop history. She was so great a singer, and so great a soul.



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## The Incomparable Laura Branigan

By Kathy and Vince Golik

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Like anyone else, we have our good days and our bad days. Most days we are altogether excited and appreciative to continue doing what we do for Laura's legacy, as we consider it not so much a “job” as an honor and a calling of sorts. There's still a lot that keeps us occupied: connecting with fans via the official website and forum, email, Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter; operating all areas of the official online store in-house; maintaining connections with the record company and other industry entities; exploring new opportunities for her legacy to be promoted; and maintaining existing opportunities wherever possible. The fact that we remain very busy is a testament to the wonderful legacy Laura has left all of us.

In being candid, there are also days we experience a degree of frustration about the way things turn out. Though it's a unique honor to know that we've realized a dream of

going from obscure fan to business manager and on to managing the legacy of “so great a singer”, as our guest contributor Michael Bolton put it, even we get somewhat discouraged at times.

Seven years following the passing of our dear Laura, did we think that out of over 6,000 Facebook followers, out of the scores of known fans who live within an hour or two of drive time of the

*Spirit Of Love* gathering, that only a handful of fans would either make it to the event or “die” trying? At the first *Spirit Of Love* event, many fans had come to honor Laura on



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the first anniversary of her passing. With each successive year, we hear from many fans around the world throughout the year who say they will be there, only to see them not follow through when registration takes place, or understandably from those who would love to make it if only they could from either a time or financial perspective. Each year we wait with anticipation to see what new face we may see at the event. And each successive year, though the attendance numbers get smaller, we usually see someone who's never made it before, and may never be able to again, but somehow everything worked out for them to be there. Should we be discouraged that the attendance gets smaller each year? We very easily could. But we rather think that each time we hold a *Spirit Of Love* event, it's not about whether we have two or two hundred fans there. Rather, it is for us, a time for fans, in person or in spirit, to take the time to corporately reflect upon Laura and her legacy, on what she means to them. Our personal commitment to the event remains unwavering and full of fervor every year.

Seven years on from Laura's passing can be a kind of turning point. How many times have we heard from fans who truly have a desire to make it to an event but have never been to one, "I'll come next time." But it's the same thing many have said about Laura's last years' worth of shows, and now the opportunity to see her live in concert has passed into memory. But this memory, or the sadness of knowing that the memory isn't there, doesn't have to be the end of the experience, as anyone who's attended at least one *Spirit Of Love* event can tell you. Laura doesn't have a gravesite where someone can place flowers or other remembrances; her "gravesite" is the *Spirit Of Love*, as Tommy has so poignantly pointed out at past events. You may initially come as a stranger, but you most definitely leave as part of a unique LB family, and *this* is something that Laura herself would certainly be most happy about.

But just coming to at least one event isn't the be-all-end-all in being a fan of Laura Branigan. We all need to be careful to remember and appreciate what she gave to each of us. It's far more than releases and product to acquire. Without exception, everyone who has come to a *Spirit Of Love* event has told us afterward of the profound difference it made in their hearts and in their understanding of Laura the person beyond Laura the singer, in ways they couldn't have necessarily gotten from websites or Facebook friends' comments or emails back and forth. It's this reflective understanding that seems to touch people in a way that Laura herself touched them in the first instance, which spurs them to be fans who want to do more for Laura than just buy up product and wait impatiently for the next new thing to come out.

It's a deeper understanding that Laura truly is incomparable; she was a unique person and a unique talent, who attracts unique people and unique talents, to this day. So, though we may not see all the fans we wish to see any given year, though we may not be able to finalize some things we have on our project list in the time we'd like them to be, we know that the fans are still out there, they're still listening, they're still passing on the legacy, because we see it every day.

For now, though, during this time, the days we personally spend on Long Island are, as Tommy put it, "cathartic meeting old friends and revisiting special places". The Hamptons have become for us not just a place to spend our vacation days both before and after the *Spirit Of Love* event (though we've certainly done that in the last several years), it's become a place of catharsis. A place of sad reflection on what might have been, what should have been. But, it's also a place of relaxation, a place that welcomes you in and doesn't let you go, a place where Laura's spirit remains, in peace and tranquility... and a place, like when thinking about Laura and her legacy, there is still so very much to ponder and discover.

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# Laura's Power of Love

By Tommy Baiyokos

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In a blink of an eye with years now passed, we remember our dearest Laura on this 2011 mark with honor, integrity and much righteousness. It's ironic that Laura's hit recording of her tune "The Power of Love", which stands alone in its musical prowess and virtuosity, would later, along with another namesake track, define her memorial gathering called "Spirit of Love". We all have taken this journey together and have much to be proud of, holding Laura's legacy on the highest of pedestals.

Laura understood people, love, and humanity. She loved and enjoyed simple things such as gardening, cooking, swimming, and singing after dinner. Spending quality time with loved ones and caring for her late mom, Kathleen, were everything to her outside of show biz. Laura loved her fans, her "other half" as she called you, and always went the extra mile for meet and greets after her shows. Having known her for over three years as a member of her band, and also having taken a leap of faith those special eight months before she left us, was a chapter that lives within me eternally. I carry these special times with me as I move forward to achieve great things the way she would have wanted. It is that life chapter that motivates me to excel and be a better man today and tomorrow.

As I reminisce about so many good times and moments, I recall going out for a run one early evening in 2004 in East Quogue before Laura made dinner. Sundown soon followed and I had lost my way back to the house, with no GPS, iPhone, Facebook - a sign of those times. As I called Laura and told her that I was lost and would be a little late, without hesitation, she set out in her car and found me in the middle of

no man's land. To this day, I do not know how she tracked me because I really drifted way off course. I was so happy to see her, and this exemplified the *power of love* that she shined upon us. I also remember her calling my Uncle John Morfogen and talking culinary about how to prepare grilled octopus, which she later prepared better than most Greek chefs. Flying to Boston together for what came to be her last show, was a special gig because it was the commencement of hopes and dreams for the brightest future. We had so much fun at this show; eating fine Italian food from the East Boston festival, and spending a great time with Kathy and Vince after the show at our hotel.



I understand now how Laura was little by little opening up her huge world, which I really did not know well as we rode in the limo together to the center stage for her show that evening. She used to tell me "red is your color" and to this day I find myself tripping on this dress code in a good way. In addition, I recall musically Laura always telling me "space, dynamics, phrasing...come down to a whisper". I recently spent some time out in East Quogue, and found it cathartic meeting old friends and revisiting special places - a heavenly oasis of reflection, nostalgia, and beauty.

Laura was a woman of deep love and had a heart of compassion as we both shared love and loss earlier on in our lives. In her private life, she was very protective of and loyal to loved ones and friends, as she would be there for them through both thick and thin times. On one of the saddest days of my life, I recall being a pallbearer at her funeral and how unexpected it was losing her so early, with so much promise ahead. However, Laura left us with memories for a lifetime through the power of her love, and her music which will live forever! Laura was one of those people that come into our lives once in a great while; a diamond in the rough and a talent second to none. "The shadow of what was", a time to only come again at the appointed time that God will show us heaven and reunite us with our loved ones on that day. Godspeed to you all and the "Spirit of Love", for Laura forever lives within us. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for honoring her. Love you always, Laura!

Thanks to all for making this Gathering  
a special time to remember and celebrate  
the Incomparable Laura Branigan!



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## Special Thanks

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*Hilton Garden Inn Islip/MacArthur Airport  
Management and Staff*

*Suffolk County Parks*

*Tommy Bayiokos*

*Michael Bolton*

*James & Florence Flood & Staff  
Westhampton T-Shirts*

*Erika Atsumi Foreman*

*All of Laura's faithful fans around the world who join with us to carry forth her legacy...*