

Heidi Olson

August 1, 1947 ~ January 26, 2022

Mother, musician, writer, and educator Heidi Olson passed away surrounded by family in Salt Lake City on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at the age of 74 (1947-2022). She was raised in San Bernardino, California and graduated from BYU with a bachelor's degree in both Secondary and Elementary Education, and double minors in History and German. She taught elementary school in Duchesne and Provo, Utah for a short time and dreamed of delaying marriage and pursuing worldwide learning and travel. Her plans changed when she met Chris and realized that, as she put it, "real progression happens in a family." In 1973 she married A. Christopher Olson in the Saint George, Utah LDS temple.

Her eight children were her life. She was the co-founder and leader of the national champion Olson Family Fiddlers who were famous for performing at nursing homes, county fairs, square dances, and even the occasional grocery store in the Pacific Northwest. Heidi was a lifelong devoted member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She served a mission in Vienna, Austria from 1968-70 and in countless church callings throughout her life. Later in life she got a master's degree in English as a second language from Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington and taught at Eastern Washington University. She had a love for her international students and a deep appreciation for their many different cultures.

In the last hours of her life, as she smiled while listening to her two oldest boys (Andy and Nate) playing old-time fiddle tunes on fiddle and guitar, she said "I wanted to make something of our family", and "you guys, we did it." Heidi is survived by her husband of 48 years, A. Christopher Olson, and her children: Andrew (Kacey), Nathaniel (Morgan), Bartlett (Erin), Elizabeth (Zach Cazier), Kierstin, Analee (Tyler Byers), Jeffrey "Duffy" (Tessa), and MacKay (Rebecca).

The family will try to live up to two of her favorite phrases: "Remember who you are, remember who you stand for", and "if you have the capability of helping someone, how do you say no?"

In lieu of flowers please send a donation to the Providence Inland Northwest Foundation - Children's Health
https://give.providence.org/ewash/Childrens-Health

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, Jan 29 at Larkin Sunset Lawn, 2350 E. 1300 S., Salt Lake City, with a viewing one hour prior. Friends and family may watch the recorded service by clicking on "Watch Services" above.