

Lori Bates Gardner

December 17, 1957 ~ June 17, 2023

Lori Bates Gardner passed away peacefully on June 17, 2023 of complications from a traumatic brain injury. Lori was born on December 17, 1957 in Cheyenne, Wyoming to Nick Lozano and Edith Moon. Lori was a graduate of Bountiful High School where she was a Sterling Scholar in Social Science. She was the first person in her family to attend college and graduated with a degree in History from the University of Utah. While at the U, she was active in the Delta Gamma sorority and met many life-long friends.

Lori married her college sweetheart Robert Gardner on March 29, 1980 in Salt Lake City, and they lived a wonderful life together for 44 years until her death. Lori began her career in 1983 teaching art history at Kearns Junior High School, and she later taught at Cottonwood High School and Kearns High School. She loved her students and the opportunity to teach about classical art. In 1993, Lori graduated with a Master of Education (M.Ed.), Educational Leadership and began the second half of her career as a school administrator. She was a vice principal and principal at Eisenhower Jr. High School and then became a principal at Hunter Jr. High School. Lori finished the last few years of her career as an assistant superintendent in Park City School District. Throughout her career, Lori was passionate about public education and the impact it has on students. In addition to the countless hours in her official positions teaching students, mentoring teachers, and operating schools, Lori held leadership positions with multiple educational not-for-profits such as Utah Students Connect, Utah Middle Level Association, Utah Schools to Watch, and the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform. Lori was also a dedicated member of Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), the AI Chapter based in Salt Lake City, where she developed many friendships.

While Lori had a long and distinguished career, her crowning achievement was her family. She loved hosting trips to her family cabin, holidays, birthdays, and other family gatherings, and most importantly spending time with her six grandchildren. She is survived by her husband Robert; son Matthew (Maha and grandchildren Amelia and Zachary) of Chicago, IL; daughter Kathryn (Chris and grandchildren Cannon and Cooper) of Salt Lake; nephew Kyle (Kaylee and grandchildren Penny and Isla) of Salt Lake; and nephew Andrew of Salt Lake. Lori also leaves behind her father Nick Lozano (Sharon) of Myrtle Creek, OR; aunt Montie (Thomas) of Casper, Wyoming, cousins (Jeffrey, Scott, and Christine); and numerous friends and neighbors that she cared for deeply. She was preceded in death by her step-father Hugh, mother Edith, and sister Penny, all of whom she loved and cared for dearly.

Services will be held on Saturday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m. at Wasatch Presbyterian Church (1700 S./1700 E.) in Salt Lake where she was a member. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made to the Assistance League of Salt Lake City.