

Patricia Nelson Madsen

June 17, 1942 ~ April 17, 2024

Patricia Nelson Madsen (81) passed away peacefully on April 17, 2024, anticipating a reunion with many loved ones.

Countless people were touched by the selfless care, sacrifice, creativity, and love from our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, aunt, sister, and friend.

Pat was born on June 17, 1942, in Salt Lake City, to John Aaron and Nyena Shepherd Nelson.

She attended church and schools in the Sugar House area of Salt Lake. She graduated from the University of Utah (BA'64) with a major in English and a minor in music. She was very musical and had a beautiful voice. Classes from Richard P. Condie led to an opportunity to become a member of the Tabernacle Choir alongside her mother.

A well-worn path appeared between Downington Ave. and Sylvan Ave. as Ron and Pat became close friends during their school years. After his return from a mission, she married Ronald Neal Madsen on December 20, 1963, in the Salt Lake Temple. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

A faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, she also served her friends and neighbors in multiple church callings, especially in Primary, Cub Scouts, and numerous music callings. She loved to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to children. Perhaps her favorite calling of all was personalizing Gospel Doctrine lessons for her daughter Leslie over many years. Together they strengthened each other's testimony of Jesus Christ and His Gospel. She taught service by example.

Pat tirelessly supported all her family through numerous activities, jobs, concerts, plays, and projects, including such things as newspaper routes, setting up soccer fields for youth leagues, gathering newspapers to be recycled, and caring for beehives. This encouraged them and taught the value of work. Music and dance lessons and recitals, little league sports, and church activities were all faithfully supported.

As each of the nineteen grandchildren came into the picture, she and Ron were eager caregivers for many of the next generation. Creating family memories was a primary focus, so she orchestrated activities to strengthen bonds and then printed extensive pictorial journals for each grandchild with her self-taught desktop publishing skills.

Pat had a beautiful and bountiful garden, and she enjoyed turning raspberries into jam, preserving apricots as fruit "leather," and bottling peaches, pears, cherries, and tomatoes.

In later years she managed an expansive book club for friends and neighbors, which became an unexpected bright light for many during the isolation of the pandemic.

Pat is survived by her husband Ron and their eight children: Cindy (Shane) Percival, Anne (Cody) Swenson, John (Becky) Madsen, David (Zelmarie) Madsen, Marie (Steve) Smith, Michael (Julie) Madsen, Allison Madsen, and

Leslie Madsen. She is also survived by her sister Cathy Nelson. Ron and Pat have 19 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

In recent years, Pat fought leukemia, enduring 3 years of chemotherapy until being declared cancer-free. Sadly, she succumbed to the ravages of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD), a rapidly progressive dementia. We are all grateful for the loving care of the doctors, nurses, and staff at the Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah clinics, and Canyons Home Care & Hospice.

Funeral services will be held at noon on Wednesday, April 24th, at the Chevy Chase Ward, 5235 South Wesley Road, Salt Lake City, Utah. A visitation will be held on Tuesday evening, April 23rd, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm at the same location, and again on Wednesday morning prior to the service from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Interment will be at Larkin Sunset Gardens. If you would like to watch the recorded services, please click on the blue “Watch Services” button above.

Condolences may be sent to the family at LarkinCares.com. In lieu of flowers, donations could be made to the Huntsman Cancer Foundation on her behalf here: https://thehuntsman.org/give