



Lisa Marie Gimlett

November 30, 2019

Lisa Marie Gimlett (June 21, 1959 – November 30, 2019)

In eternal memory of a loving mother, wife, daughter, sister, and extraordinary teacher of children. Lisa embraced her family, friends, and elementary pupils with patience, empathetic listening, and unconditional love. Lisa always made everyone she was with feel important, was unfailingly kind, and looked for the best in all things. Her family was her world and she cherished them beyond measure. She had an avid love for nature, finding rejuvenation in camping, hiking, and the great outdoors. Good music, books, volleyball, and travel were among her favorite pastimes. Lisa also was proficient with power tools, having nearly single-handedly renovated her historic home.

Born in Reno, Nevada, Lisa and her family put down roots in Pasadena, California, where she graduated as valedictorian of Pasadena High School, marched in the Rose Bowl Parade with the school band, and was active in track and other athletics. She was awarded a prestigious AFS scholarship to become a global citizen, which allowed her to spend a summer in Malaysia. This and graduating from one of the first integrated high schools in Los Angeles sowed the seeds for a life-long commitment to social justice.

Lisa's passion for early childhood education (ECE) began early, first with "teaching" her baby brother Michael and then with degrees in ECE from

California State University-San Luis Obispo and the University of Minnesota. Her longest teaching stints were in Fort Collins, first in CSU's Early Childhood Center and later at Dunn Elementary School, where she taught first grade and was a highly regarded International Baccalaureate trainer. One could not walk around Old Town without Lisa being mobbed by past and present students, which unfailingly elicited her infectious laugh and warm hugs.

Lisa passed away six years after being diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's. She is survived by her husband David MacPhee; her two sons, Travis (TJ) Gainley (Caroline) and Dustin (Dusty) Gainley (Ashley), and her stepdaughter Darcy MacPhee (Eric Jacobson); father Jim Gimlett; brothers James (Maggie Gallivan), Danny (Barbi), and Michael Gimlett; sister Manon Gimlett (Thaxter Cunio); aunt Sherrie; mother-in-law Carolyn MacPhee; one granddaughter Clare with two more on the way; and three nieces and nephews. Her mother, Van, preceded her in death. A celebration of life will be held at the Fort Collins Lincoln Center, Canyon West ballroom, on March 14 at 1:00. Please consider making a donation to your local Alzheimer's Association or the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County.

Lisa was a ray of light, kindness and love in our lives. She will be forever in our hearts and deeply missed by all.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 14. 1:00 PM (MT)

Lincoln Center- Canyon West Ballroom
417 W Magnolia Street
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Tribute Wall

PN

“ I knew Lisa at Washington Junior High School in Pasadena for 7th and 8th grade (roughly fall of 1971 to the spring of 1973). She and I were in the junior high school orchestra. She played viola and I played double bass, later switching to the bassoon. I knew her mother as she frequently drove me and Lisa and Lisa's older sister Leslie to rehearsals for what was then the San Gabriel Valley Junior Symphony. I was devastated to hear of her passing. RIP my former musical colleague!

Philip Luther Nash - November 30, 2025 at 05:58 PM

NV

“ Mrs. Gimlett was my 1st grade teacher. I was still learning English at the time so I struggled quite a bit in her class, but she left an impression that I would never forget.



Later on when I was in high school, I would go back to Dunn to find that she was still teaching there and she surprised me by saying she still remembered me. Since that day, I began volunteering my time as an assistant in her class whenever I could, for up to 5 years up until she had to retire. And through those 5 short years, she continued to teach me even more, helping me learn and grow into my adulthood.

Mrs Gimlett. is without a doubt one of the most compassionate and loving individuals that I have ever met in my life. Her passion for teaching kids, all of the love and wisdom she had to share with the students of her class and the people around her, myself included is something I won't ever forget. And I will forever be grateful for the opportunity I had to have her be a part of my life.

Mrs Gimlett, I never really had the opportunity to tell you, because I thought that you'd always be there at the school when I returned to volunteer for the next year. But you the most inspiring adult I ever knew, a true one of a kind. I miss you every day, and will never forget the lessons you've taught me and the impact that you had on not just my life, but all of the kids I saw walk through the doors to your classroom.

Forever your student,

Nam Vo

Nam Vo - December 20, 2022 at 12:35 AM



“ *Lisa Marie Gimlett*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Lisa was one of my students in the Pasadena High School Orchestra during the 1973-74 school year. Along with her sister, Leslie, Lisa decided she also wanted to play in the PHS band. During the summer of 1974 I taught her how to play the French Horn. Leslie learned to play the slide trombone. Neither of the two had ever played a brass instrument before that. In that short time, both sisters became very accomplished with their new musical instruments and played in the marching band the following Autumn. Lisa was an extraordinary person and a wonderful musician. I am saddened to learn of her death. I shall not forget her.*

John L. Work

January 3, 2022

John L. Work - January 03, 2022 at 07:29 PM

DR

“ When we moved to Fort Collins more than thirty years ago, we were fortunate to buy a house on a cul-de-sac across from the Gimlett-Gainley family. It was a special neighborhood, and Lisa was a major reason that was the case. We would gather in her driveway in the early evenings and visit. She brought us together--as she brought many people together over the years.

Today is March 14, the day people will gather to celebrate her life, and we planned to be present. The covid-19 situation and our particular vulnerabilities have kibboshed that idea. Rotten circumstances; also rotten circumstances that took Lisa from her family, friends, and the world far too early.

We are holding TJ, Dusty, David, and the extended Gainley, McPhee, and Gimlett families in the Light, and will be at the celebration this afternoon in spirit.

--Deb Robson & Rebekah Robson-May

Deborah Robson - March 14, 2020 at 10:47 AM

TT

“ Ms. Gimlett was my first grade teacher. When I think of her, I think of when she had us breathe in as she counted on her fingers to twenty, and breathe out for twenty. She was a gentle, warm light in everyone she came across. I felt like when she looked at you it was with calmness, and a quiet type of belief. Like she knew all you can be, and all that you are. We will miss you Ms. Gimlett.

Tedla Tyndall - February 26, 2020 at 12:50 AM

IM

“ For those of us who knew Lisa primarily through her children, she will always be remembered as “TJ’s Mom”. TJ and Dusty are a lasting reflection of what a great woman she was. There is no greater or more lasting tribute than the legacy she leaves in those Two gentlemen.

Our deepest condolences to all who love and survive her.

*Ian and Vicki McCargar
Windsor, Colorado*

Ian McCargar - December 08, 2019 at 01:23 PM

JG

“ Deepest sympathy to all of you. Lisa was a gift in our women's group.
She will forever be treasured and missed.

Joanne Gallagher - December 06, 2019 at 02:14 PM

CG

“ Precious, lovely Lisa, who was still a genius in her heart these last few years!! I love you and your family! Cindy guillaume

cindy guillaume - December 05, 2019 at 11:35 PM