



Lois E. Jensen

April 11, 2025

Lois Edna Jensen, an amazing mother, dear friend, and a force to be reckoned with, passed into eternity April 11, 2025 at the age of 90. Born in Hangzhou China on September 11, 1934, to Lutheran Missionaries, her first years were spent in a concentration camp during World War II. She and her family of 3 sisters, 6 brothers and parents were liberated by the United States in an exchange at sea in 1942.

Growing up in Provo, Utah, she later pursued an education at nursing school in St. Louis, Missouri. It was there she met Byron “Barney” Lee Jensen, who became her greatest partner in the adventures of a lifetime. Lois and Barney were married in 1956, moved around the Midwest, finally settling in Denver with their 3 sons, Michael, David, and James. Sometime in the mid- ‘60’s, Barney discovered Fort Collins, and while Lois swore, she’d never move to “that one horse town,” there was something about a rambling house on acreage with horses in a neighborhood called Fairway Estates that won her over.

Eventually hanging up her scrubs at Swedish Memorial, Lois took her prodigious skills to Poudre Valley Hospital in 1971. Her compassion and tireless work ethic took root in Operating Room 10 where her warm hugs and words of encouragement went the extra mile so important to the healing process. Eventually, her extraordinary talent as a nurse made possible the

pinnacle of her professional achievements as Surgical First Assistant for the neurosurgeons at the Front Range Center for Brain and Spine Surgery. After decades of work as an invaluable team member, she retired at the age of 83 (no, that is not a typo).

Born with an overabundance of energy, Lois's love of sports became a centerpiece of Jensen life. Many overnights in a station wagon parked in ski area parking lots afforded her first-run access – and good luck keeping up with her on the slopes. Over the years, she added Heli-skiing to the list of great ways to find untracked powder. Skiing out of bounds in Europe also provided access to some memorable downhill adventures.

Since the snow isn't any good in the summer, Lois took to climbing the mountains she loved, completing all of Colorado's 14'ers except for Pikes Peak (if you can ride a train to the top, it's not really a mountain). While snow skiing is out for the summer, water skiing was not, and she made sure to make the most of Warren Lake, Grand Lake and Lake McConaughy in Nebraska. Slalom skiing with a Budweiser in one hand, Lois was an expert who never got her hair wet or smeared her lipstick.

Summer is also the running season and in the late 1970's Lois began to run. A lot. Ultimately, she would run both the Rawhide Marathon locally and the Colorado Run twice. Most impressively, she ran the Boston Marathon 4 times and the New York City Marathon 4 times. At one point, she was ranked 5th in the nation for women over 50.

The one year-round activity added to the menu was cycling. She and Barney, along with a dozen or so dear friends would enjoy road biking locally, nationally and internationally. They even managed to accomplish a trip that had them dipping their rear tires in the Pacific ocean to start the trek and finishing with a dip of the front tires in the Atlantic. She might have skipped the

Dakota/mid-west portion (too flat!), but we give her credit for the entire cross country trip.

In 2018, shortly after Lois's retirement, our well-loved local artist Barney died unexpectedly. While devastating for the entire Jensen clan, this surprising turn of events was particularly hard for Lois. Navigating the world without her adventure buddy and the love of her life wasn't supposed to be in the cards. But, in true Lois fashion, an intensely positive attitude gave way to several healthy years spent enjoying Colorado, her son's families and even welcoming a great grand baby to this world she loved so well.

We are so blessed to have been in her life and now take great solace knowing she's in the arms of her Savior. A life truly well lived is something that doesn't happen every day – Lois showed us how it's supposed to look, and we're all better for it. She is survived by her sons Michael (Sheri), David (Susan) and James (Joseph), amazing grandchildren Lauren, Michael (Julia), Christopher and Paul, and one super spoiled great grandson, Scott.

A celebration of life will be held in the Summer; May she rest in peace.

Tribute Wall

CF

“ *What a beautiful lady!! So grateful to have been her friend ...such a very special friend that was always there through so many surgeries and health issues...She and my mom had a very special bond... I'm so very grateful for her she was the one very special lady!!!!* ❤️❤️❤️
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Chris Friede - September 16, 2025 at 10:13 PM

LF

“ *Mike, David and Jim - I am so sorry for the loss of your mother. She was such a light in the Fairway neighborhood. I remember as a little girl watching her ice skate on the Fairway lake. So graceful, so athletic. She always had time for the kids that saw her in the neighborhood and over the years as I ran into her in Fort Collins. She is fondly remembered. With my prayers, Laura Frisinger (the youngest of those "Frisinger" kids).*

Laura R Frisinger - April 21, 2025 at 01:25 PM



“ *We were fortunate neighbors of Lois and Barney. We are so grateful to have been the recipients of Lois's contagious energy and zest for life. She was always prepared with a bag of cookies for our kids and a warm invitation to come into her home, where she was known to give them anything they had their eye on, including treats, stuffed animals, and even home decor. :) She will be greatly missed, but our lives were truly enriched by having known her.*

Brittany Ferrans - April 21, 2025 at 12:39 PM

JH

“ Dear Lois’ family. My sincerest condolences for your loss. To say she was a remarkable woman would be an understatement. She made everyone feel like the most important person in the world by the way she listened, cared and loved everyone who was blessed enough to have known her. I adored her from a very young age. I’ll be forever grateful for her love and support when my mom passed away. She was tender and kind and so much fun and her stories - oh her stories! So many! May we all live like Lois. Sending you lots of love and prayers.

JoBeth Hill - April 19, 2025 at 12:23 PM

TB

Dear family Jensen. I’m so sorry to hear your mom has passed away. What a great woman she must have been. I’m sorry I never was able to meet her personally. But I’d like to thank her for „taking care“ of my brother Mike the many times he couldn’t make it home to Austria during the Christmas holidays. Dave brought him home to your family and Mike loved being there. Sending you lots of prayers. Theresia Berggötz (Reeves)

Theresia Berggötz - April 21, 2025 at 01:19 PM

RS

Dear Jensen Family,
Your Mother was an absolute treasure of generosity and care for others. We loved having the chance to visit with her as she took her walks through our neighborhood. Lois will be missed by you and all of us, who were blessed to spend time with her. Thank you for sharing that beautiful tribute with all of us!
Rebecca and Sean Shelley

Rebecca and Sean Shelley - May 04, 2025 at 06:33 PM

FJ

So very sorry to hear this, Lois was one of the nicest people I've ever meet. To all the Jensen Boys, love you.

Fred Judson

Fred Judson - May 31, 2025 at 03:07 PM