



Nina P. Azari

September 6, 2025

Nina Parvin Azari died on September 6, 2025 after a battle with cancer. She was 66 years old. Nina was born on February 5, 1959 in Lincoln, Nebraska to Parviz “Paul” and (Harriet) Ann (Coates) Azari.

Nina Azari grew up in Fort Collins, Colorado and graduated from Rocky Mountain High School in 1977. She began her higher education as a music major, studying the violin. Although her talent and deep love of music continued throughout her life, she chose to pursue a life in science.

Nina earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Sciences from Colorado State University in 1983, followed by a Master of Science degree in Cognitive Psychology in 1987, also from CSU. She continued in the PhD program there to earn her PhD in Cognitive Psychology in 1989. Dr. Azari earned a second PhD in Religious and Theological Studies from the Iliff School of Theology at Denver University in 2004.

Over the course of her professional career, Nina was a postdoctoral Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Washington, DC, an Alexander von Humboldt Fellow in Germany, the Assistant Director at the Institute of Theology and Science in Nijmegen in the Netherlands and a professor of Cognitive Psychology at the University of Hawaii/Hilo.

She also taught for many years at Ridgeview Classical School, and most recently was a lecturer at the Osher Institute at Colorado State University. In recent years, Nina attended Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Fort Collins.

Despite many challenges, Nina lived a full life as a researcher, teacher, artist, musician, scholar, writer, thinker, dreamer, and animal lover. She loved teaching and all her students, walking, reading, swimming and making new friends. She had a great sense of humor. She was much loved and will be deeply missed.

Nina was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Paul and Ann Azari. She is survived by her four siblings: Victoria (Tom) Loran of Fort Collins, Colorado, Doran (Kathy) Azari of Greeley, Colorado, Aaron (Anita) Azari of Arvada, Colorado, and Katherine Azari and husband Dan MacArthur of Fort Collins, Colorado. She is also survived by her nieces and nephews: Alyssa Azari and husband Sam Twito and their son Timothy of Arvada Colorado, David and Melissa (Warner) Azari and their daughter Isabel of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Abigail Azari and husband Nils Smit-Anseeuw of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Madeline Azari of Boulder, Colorado, Anthony Azari and fiancé Sarah Lopez of Greeley, Colorado, and Ellie (Loran) and Ben Oschwald and their family: Kayden, Kennedy, Braylee, Brooklyn, Kaleb, and Blaire of El Paso, Texas. She is also survived by her aunt, Turan Ilsen and cousins Natalie Fennel and Pauline Ilsen all of California, as well as cousins Deb (Kalama) and Niles Robinson of Indiana, and James Pryor of Hawaii.

A private family memorial will be held. Our deepest thanks to Nina's neighbors, friends, colleagues and extended family as well as her church family at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Fort Collins, Colorado for your kindness, assistance and love for our sister. It is most appreciated. Also, our gratitude goes to Poudre Valley Hospital and Riverbend Health and Rehabilitation Center and Pathways Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The Food Bank for Larimer County.

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Crystal Kerr - October 20, 2025 at 01:44 PM

PT

“ We got to know Nina at Yoga classes at Atzlan. She was such an interesting person and we enjoyed talking with her after class. She often mentioned her siblings and how happy she was that they were close. We are so sorry she had such a rough time with her cancer treatments. Rest in peace dear Nina.

Phil and Starr Teague - September 22, 2025 at 04:52 PM

ML

Dr. Nina was such an awesome teacher.....scholar....human being!! As a student in several of her classes at OSHER, I felt I was sitting at the Master's feet.....always amazed at her scholarly approach to learning and questioning; she gifted all her students w her wisdom and intellect! Once drove her to King Suppers and then to her home. Such a dear soul. Rest in Peace, dear Nina 🥰💕

marilyn lines - October 01, 2025 at 12:35 PM

SD

Dr. Nina was ever so funny, smarter than anyone and kind to those of us (me) who did not understand half of what she said. She said I did get it, but that was only due to her creative ways of teaching. May you all find peace with her passing....she was one fine human with a loving spirit. Suzie Daggett

Suzie Daggett - October 01, 2025 at 06:47 PM

CD

I knew Dr. Nina from highschool where she taught multiple of my psychology and neuroscience courses. She connected me with my very first research position when I was a senior, and drove me to study neuroscience and psychology in college. Dr. Nina was the most influential teacher I've ever had, and helped me become the person I am today. She really was an amazing and inspiring person who I loved a lot.

Camille D'Arcey - October 13, 2025 at 11:30 PM

HG

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Holly Giardina - September 17, 2025 at 05:48 PM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Nina's passing. Our mothers were good friends when we were all kids, attending Foothills Unitarian Church. Though we didn't stay in touch, my sisters and I have always held your family in high regard. I am pretty sure it was Nina I had a chance encounter with on the airport shuttle bus in 1990, when I was on my way to travel in Europe. We had a delightful conversation during the ride and it got my big adventure off to a great start. Wishing you all peace and comfort in your memories of your sister. ❤️*

Mary Staley Pridgen

Mary Pridgen - September 10, 2025 at 02:05 PM

RJ

“ *Nina and I got to be friends at the swimming pool, in yoga, at Aztlan Rec Center and sharing walks and talks. I will greatly miss her sweet and kind, beautiful smile very much.*

Wishing her and all of her family peace and love, and gratitude for this friendship.

Renee

Renee Jones - September 10, 2025 at 10:02 AM

PP

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Penny Dal Ponte - September 08, 2025 at 08:29 PM

RJ

love to Alice and all those that love her

Renee Jones - September 10, 2025 at 10:03 AM

MM

My family and I were saddened to hear of Nina's passing. Nina and her siblings were among my father's favorite students, and Nina and Kitty had watched my sister Marcy and I (babysat) when we were kids, which had to have been a challenge. Nina was a lovely and brilliant person with a keen wit. She contributed a great deal to the world and will be missed.

Michael McNeal - September 15, 2025 at 11:44 PM



“ 9 files added to the album Memories Album



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - September 08, 2025 at 01:04 PM

JL

Nina was teaching to the end.....💕💕

judy lantry - September 09, 2025 at 12:27 PM

SU

Wonderful picture share.

Suzie - September 10, 2025 at 12:11 AM

CH

Nina and I crossed paths many times at the City recreation centers over the years. It wasn't until our yoga class that we began visiting. That continued into the weight room, at the pool and on. I loved her honesty, kindness, curiosity and independence. In addition, she was a gentle soul who enriched my life. Rest easy dear Nina.

Christine Hays - September 10, 2025 at 03:00 PM

HG

A few weeks ago I visited my dear friend, Nina Azari. Much like our past visits, we chatted and caught up with one another's lives. Nina and I first met on the first day of 6th grade, 1970. We discovered we both came from families of 5 children-both with 3 girls and 2 boys. We also both had a parent who was born in another country, therefore bringing a multicultural environment to each of our homes. But something magical glued us to one another as friends in that first year as classmates. Over the years, we grew from girls, to teens, then adults and finally middle agers, always keeping in touch. There were many letters, cards, phone calls, and best of all, in person visits. We often walked while we talked, sometimes for hours. Once we walked all the way around City Park lake talking away! Nina shared with me her studies, research, and her international travels. We also talked about our love of our families, dogs, nature, and both becoming teachers. I am so grateful for the last moments I had with Nina, my very honest, genuine, kind and caring, brilliant, yet down to earth Friend. We smiled and laughed with one another in our last hours together, like young girls again. More seriously, she shared she was ready for Peace and Joy. I will forever hold dearly in my heart the exceptional girl I met and spent a lifetime as friends with, Nina P. Azari.

From Holly (Livinghouse) Giardina

Holly Giardina - September 16, 2025 at 03:39 PM


Sandra
Hermes

Nina and I were neighbors for the last couple of years, but I just recently got to know her and I thought of her as a friend. I just found and read her book, which I found absolutely fascinating. I am so sorry for her loss and miss our talks.

Sandra Hermes - September 19, 2025 at 09:31 PM