

DEBORAH LYNNE BITZER passed away at the age of 59 in her home of Delray Beach, Florida the evening of Tuesday, March 25. She leaves behind her husband Chris and two children Bridgette Bitzer Wagner and Brenton Bitzer, as well as son-in-law Andrew Wagner, and grandchildren Gavin, 9 and Adeline, 7.

Deborah was born in Windsor, Ontario February 1st 1955. She moved to West Bloomfield, Michigan at the age of 18 with her family. She graduated from West Bloomfield High School and put herself through college waitressing tables, graduating from The University of Windsor with a major in Journalism and minor in Communications.

Deborah enjoyed writing poetry, could recite straight from Shakespeare, and had a strong appreciation for the arts, film, and music. She was a lover of classic rock music and enjoyed many concerts: The Who, Jethro Tull, Aerosmith, James Taylor, and The Rolling Stones, among many others. She played piano and made an effort to keep music alive in the lives of her children. She also enjoyed ice skating lessons as a young child.

Some of her best memories were made on Cass, Pine and Walnut Lakes with friends and family. She loved being outdoors in nature whether it be the Great Lakes, local parks, or the Florida beaches. She enjoyed snow-skiing trips to up-north Michigan with her husband and children and camping in Grand Bend, Canada, a place she went as both a child and as an adult with her own family. She loved to travel, write, and socialize. She was accepting and loving to everyone she met. Deborah worked as a sales assistant for WXYZ-TV Channel 7 and for the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers, where she met Chris. She enjoyed many other careers over the year: working for the West Bloomfield Library, Lord and Taylor, and Roz and Sherm boutique. She made an effort to stay home and raise her children and performed a lot of volunteer work for Our Lady of Refuge Church and school, where her children attended, as well as the Detroit Symphony.

Deborah was a lover of animals and treated them like family: toy poodle Cindy Rose, rabbit Snickers and cats Esther, Olive (The "Wookie"), Patty O'Day, Boots, and Roxy. She loved and cherished her pets and instilled a kindness and respect for animals in her children.

She had a wild off-the-wall sense of humor that everyone she met enjoyed, and was well versed in American and Canadian history. She had a deep sense of spirituality and read often on The Bible, yet was also open and interested in other religions, such as Buddhism and Hinduism. She had an otherworldly connection that most humans on earth do not understand or experience.

Her parents, Virginia and William Templeton had four children: Gregory (deceased), D'Arcy, Deborah, and Grant. Deborah's surviving brother D'Arcy lives in Vancouver Canada and her youngest brother Grant lives in West Bloomfield Michigan with his wife Denise and children Curtis, Ian, and Lauren. Deborah leaves behind surviving nieces Cyndy Cousino, Tracy Templeton-Kindl, Andrea Templeton Serra, Jody Farrugia, and Lindsey Templeton.

On the Bitzer side Deborah leaves behind the Bitzer-Williamson family, Kristy Bitzer Thompson, Brian Bitzer, and Karlee Yoak who reside in Michigan. She is survived by her Florida Bitzer family: Russ, Fran, Scott, Jill and Jay.

It is important to mention her good friend Robert Newman, who passed away in 2012. She shared many wonderful memories with him and resided in the Newman family home with her son in Essex, Ontario before moving to Delray Beach upon Newman's unfortunate loss due to his battle with colon cancer.

Deborah suffered diabetes complications that left her in great pain these past few years. The family encourages other family and friends to remember the good times when she was younger.

The family is having a private small gathering Sunday, March 30th and plans to attend St. Lucy's Catholic Church in Highland Beach, Florida for a mass with a dedicated mention. A small gathering will take place at the home of Russ Bitzer, her brother-in-law, following the mass.

Cards and condolences can be sent to:

Chris and Brenton Bitzer

2222 Spanish Trail Apt 3
Delray Beach, FL 33483

Bridgette Wagner
1661 Honeybee Lane
Wilmington, NC
28412

The family also asks that you consider donating to the American Diabetes Association in Deborah's behalf at diabetes.org.

A poem written by Deborah:

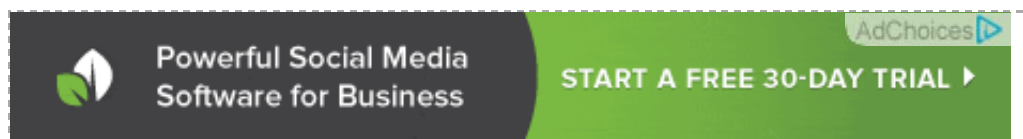
TODAY

"Today I'm going to get up and embrace the day
the birds are chirping and the sunrise
peeked all orange and pink in a haze
the sun out brilliant I hope it stays"

written August 10th, 2013

Story

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