



Susan Kay Giddings

February 25, 1942 - September 2, 2021

Susan Kay (Heringer) Giddings

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Susan Giddings was born in Bismarck, North Dakota and grew up in Salem, Oregon. She graduated from South Salem High School and attended the University of Oregon, receiving an MS in secondary education with an emphasis in botany. Susan married Gary Gregor in 1963 and moved to Salt Lake City, where they had a son, Garrett. While five months pregnant, she did research studying mistletoe pollen in the Uinta Mountains while living in a trailer. She loved the Wasatch Mountains and enjoyed hiking to see wildflowers in the summer and the aspens turn color in the fall, teaching Garrett the names of all of the plants on their walks.

Susan met and married J. Calvin Giddings in 1972, and helped raise his two sons, Steven and Michael, for the next 10 years. During this time, Susan enjoyed travelling internationally. She spent three months with her family in Peru and six months traveling across Africa. After divorcing Cal in 1982, Susan went back to school and trained in radiation science. She then got a job as a radiation physicist for the Department of Environmental Quality in Utah. She adored her new life and work, remaking herself as a successful professional and a single mom. A favorite part of her job was traveling across Utah and meeting interesting people, inspecting the x-ray machines of large

hospitals and scientific facilities to small town veterinarians. She remained happily unmarried.

Susan was a strong proponent of education, and was fascinated by medicine. Living near the University of Utah hospital, she rented rooms in her home to dozens of medical students over a period of two decades who were doing their rotations. Later when it was harder for her to travel, Susan enjoyed keeping up with her friends in Germany, England, and Singapore as well as chatting with people she met who were from other countries.

Susan was passionate about orchids and had many varieties in her greenhouse. There was always at least one blooming in her home. Susan was proud of her son Garrett and thrilled that in recent years he had started to share her love of orchids, sending some home with him each time he visited.

Susan passed away unexpectedly in her home at the age of 79. She is survived by her son Garrett Gregor, daughter-in-law Virginia Some, sister-in-law Patty Heringer, nephews Peter and Eric Heringer and their families, and “second son” Luis Leal and his family. Due to the pandemic no memorial service will be held, but memories of her would be appreciated. Susan loved dogs, and had two over many years, Kelley and Shep. If you wish to make a donation in her name, please consider the Humane Society of Utah.

Tribute Wall



“ *Susan Kay Giddings*

October 22, 2023 at 08:21 PM



“ *Susan Kay Giddings*

October 05, 2023 at 07:13 AM



“ *On the 30 June 1979 I joined a group of strangers on an overland truck trip from Southampton to Nairobi via the Sahara Desert.*

Fortuitously Susan and I formed part of an initial three person cooking group. Subsequently we shared many unique experiences in sometimes extremely testing circumstances.

This was a four-month trip that took six months. Nineteen people started the journey but only ten of us got off Henry the truck in Kenya.

Several years after the African adventure I visited Susan in Salt Lake City for two further mini adventures.

Oh, what enjoyable, successful and memorable travels we had together.

Love Donald Malpas

donald leslie malpas - November 07, 2022 at 08:50 PM

TH

“ Susan..you have been my "SLC mom" since we first met in 2016. You were kind, smart and charming. Your friendship made me feel right at home from day one. I will cherish the memory of our little chats over coffee, our photography sessions of beautiful flowers in the yard, and our movie time while enjoying Thai dinners.

SLC mom, I will miss you.



Than Hein - March 06, 2022 at 07:11 AM

SP

“ I was a fortunate student that rented a room in 1999 and got to share a month with Susan and Shep. I will never forget how bright and independent she was; she was wonderful role model for a young medical student. Susan and her friends arranged an amazing brunch with me in the autumn woods with all the fancy fixings served on her mother's china and crystal. I am sure I will never have such an awesome experience like that again. I was hopeful to see her again this year...but I am thankful I have the memories from so many years ago. My condolences to her family and anyone who's life she touched. - Sonia Partap

Sonia Partap - February 23, 2022 at 06:06 PM

DM

“ *"When the going gets tough the tough get going".*

Love Donald Malpas your friend and very close travelling companion on the six month Southampton to Nairobi overland trip and associated mini adventures ie. the Maasai Mara Game Park excursion.

We shared good times on our Grand Canyon rafting trip and road trip to Oregon.

Sue you will always have a special place in my heart.

donald leslie malpas - January 01, 2022 at 06:43 PM

PH

“ *When Salt Lake City was announced as the site for the winter olympics, Susan was not enthusiastic about the selection; she was concerned about the environmental impact. As the date for the games approached, I decided that I'd be unlikely to ever attend any other winter olympics, and asked Susan if I could come for a visit. I was able to get tickets for us to attend the men's figure skating championship event. That evening is a wonderful memory of us in the next to last row of seat enjoying the skating. We also went to an exhibit of Dale Chihuly's incredible glass. One of the installations was a ceiling full of small works best seen while lying on the floor, which we did. Patty Heringer*

Patty Heringer - December 28, 2021 at 04:10 PM

AM

“ Susan and I met when she came to one of Bill Viviant's parties in Castle Valley. She slept out on the lawn and the sprinklers came on in the middle of the night . I heard about her disastrous Africa trip with Bill and others. We became friends and had many subsequent adventures in the Wasatch and southern Utah, including “fur” parties and horse carriage rides.

In addition to all her good qualities mentioned in the previous comments, Susan was adventurous and ready for anything.

*She will be missed,
Ann McDonald*

Ann McDonald - December 24, 2021 at 01:22 PM

TB

“ I had the privilege of being Susan's hair stylist for many years. She was a pleasure to visit with and was grateful and kind. I remember looking forward to her appointments because she was so enjoyable. Much love to you all and please accept my sincere condolences.
Terri

Terri Berg - December 23, 2021 at 11:39 AM

LL

“ Susan was and will continue to be a second mom to me. She became my best friend, and I thank her for being kind to me and my family. I carry you in my prayers and thoughts.

Love,

Luis (your second son)



Luis Leal - December 22, 2021 at 01:53 PM

AS

“ I remember Susan's smile, her vitality, and her kindness. She provided me a home when I needed one most, and I know this is true for many others. She also graciously put up with a lot of noisy, thrashy rock music that Garrett and I blared out on drums and guitar in our high school days. Her love for Garrett was palpable (as it was for her dog Shep, though of a different kind).

Cheers to you, Susan!

Alf Seegert - December 21, 2021 at 06:38 PM

CW

“ Cindy Warren lit a candle in memory of Susan Kay Giddings



Cindy Warren - December 21, 2021 at 03:28 PM

CW

“ Susan was one of my favorite people I worked with at Environmental Quality-Radiation Control. Sue had such a kind and gentle way about her, and a wicked sense of humor. She could totally crack me up, sometimes at the most inappropriate times, board meetings, press conferences staff meetings, etc. I will miss my former co-worker and friend.

Cindy Warren - December 21, 2021 at 03:28 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Susan Giddings Memories Album



Utah Cremation Society - December 20, 2021 at 03:02 PM