

Emma Jane Barnsley – 1/10/1938 – 12/20/2022



Emma Jane Mengel Barnsley was born to Nellie Mabel and Waldo Henry Mengel, in Lincoln, Nebraska, on January 10, 1938. She attended Lincoln High School, graduating in 1956, and attended Nebraska Wesleyan University. She remained close to several friends from her childhood school days throughout her life, a group known to each other as “the circle of friends”. She loved the wide open Nebraska landscape, with its rolling bluffs, scenic rivers and lakes, and the Summer’s steamy humidity.

In 1957, Emma married Michael John Barnsley, settling together in Boulder, Colorado, where they raised their three children (Sam, Jeanell, and Linda). For over 30 years, Emma, quite joyfully, served as a teacher to generations of preschoolers at Mountain View Preschool. She and her fellow teachers remained close friends throughout their teaching and retirement years, often gathering to reminisce over coffee and endless laughter.

Emma remarried in 2008, relocating to Tucson, Arizona with her husband Henry Stanley Bieniecki. Soon after, they added a fluffy and vocal puppy, SuzyQ, to their household, who remains a loyal and loving source of joy to both of them. They enjoyed the beauty of the desert, often introducing visiting friends and family to their many favorite spots. In October 2020, all three relocated to Lafayette, Colorado to be closer to lifelong friends and family.

Emma was a loving mother-in-law to Ann Barnsley, Jim Miklas, and the late Wayne Roth; a joyful grandma/nana to Bryan Barnsley and his wife Jenith Lee, Emily Barnsley Lee and her husband Jed Lee, Mary Cameron Roth and her longtime boyfriend Connor Wright, Abby Miklas and her fiancé Justin Muilenberg, and Stu Miklas; and, a gleeful great grandma (“GG”) to Ellie, Bailey, Bennett, and Cole Lee.

Emma modeled a lifelong pursuit of a broadening and deepening faith. Her early influences were her mother and father, who were active in their church in Lincoln. Emma served on the board at Unity of Boulder for many years. And, during her years in Tucson, she studied and converted to Catholicism.

No matter the moment, celebratory or sorrowful, hilarious or not yet hilarious, Emma was right there with you, with tears and laughter, perhaps a delight-filled

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squeal, and likely a little angel or heart trinket to carry with you as a reminder you aren't alone.

Celebration of Life services will be held at 1:00 PM Saturday, January 28, 2023 at Unity Church of Boulder, 2855 Folsom Street Boulder, CO.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to your favorite charity in Emma's name.