



Denise Lea Winegarden was born on February 9, 1967, the daughter of Dennis and Diane (Chrisman) Winegarden. She grew up in Sharon Center, IA and graduated from Mid-Prairie High School in 1985. She then attended the University of Iowa and graduated with a degree in Industrial Engineering in 1989. She married Dave Christensen on December 23, 1988 at Sharon Center United Methodist Church. The

couple made their home in Iowa,

Vermont and Illinois before settling in Sioux Falls, SD in 2005. She was dedicated to raising her children and volunteering. Denise's volunteer work led her to complete a degree in Nursing from the University of South Dakota in 2008. She worked at Sanford Hospital until joining the Avera Heart Hospital family in 2009 where she worked until the time of her death.

Hot air ballooning shaped Denise's life from a young age. She learned to fly from her Dad and received her pilot certificate in 1985. While flying for her Dad's ride business, she met her future husband Dave, another pilot flying for Dennis. Denise took pride in watching her daughter become a third generation balloon pilot, and she shared many adventures with an extended ballooning family. She also enjoyed gardening, knitting, sewing and volunteering at Lifescape.

Denise was preceded in death by her father, Dennis Winegarden.

She is survived by her husband, Dave of Sioux Falls; her twin children, Anne (Alex) Susko of Spirit Lake, IA and John Christensen of Cincinnati, OH; her mother, Diane Winegarden of North Liberty, IA; her sisters, Debra (Bill) Horning of Coralville, IA and Danita Capps of Denver, CO; her in-laws, Merlyn and Janet Christensen of Dell Rapids, SD; sisters-in-law, Cheryl (Stu) Dix of Baldwin, WI and Linda Nelson of Clear Lake, IA and her many nieces, nephews and friends.

Celebration of Life Service

Miller Funeral Home Southside Chapel

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Saturday, June 22, 2019 ~ 10:30 a.m.

Celebrant

Kathleen Helgeson

Order of Service

Song: *Aria* by J.S. Bach, played by Alex Susko

Candle Lighting

Welcome

Prayer

Tributes: Mark West, Becky Sluiter, Amy Cole

Balloonist's Prayer: John Gunderson

Special Reading: *For the Love of the World* read by

Danita Capps, Jalen Capps

Song: *Amazing Grace* performed by Cory & Ken

Tomovick, Alex Susko, Stan Burgers

Words of Comfort: Kathleen Helgeson

Scripture: *Ecclesiastes 3:1-8* – Stu Dix

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing: Numbers 6:24-26

Song: *I'll Fly Away* by Alison Krauss

Balloonist's Prayer

The winds have welcomed you with softness.
The sun has blessed you with its warm hands.
You have flown so high and so well
that God has joined you in laughter
and set you gently back
into the loving arms of Mother Earth.

*Memorials may be directed to
the Denise Christensen Memorial Fund intended to continue
sharing Denise's support of and compassion for others.*



In Memory of

*Denise L.
Christensen*

*Funeral Arrangements by Kahler Funeral Home
Dell Rapids, South Dakota*

February 9, 1967 - June 5, 2019