



Julia Gardner Welch

November 1, 1941 - January 18, 2025

Julia Gardner Welch passed away peacefully on January 18, 2025, after a brief illness. Born November 1, 1941, in Richfield, Sevier County, Utah, she was the eldest child of Genevieve Sylvester Gardner and Blythe Maynard Gardner and was blessed with three sisters - Joyce, Gloria, and Marianne. Julie grew up surrounded by a large and loving extended family and many dear friends. She loved the 4-H Club excelling in cooking, sewing, and agriculture, including raising several grand champion steers. Her fondest memories included time spent on the family ranch and horseback riding with her father.

Julie was a natural student, was on the typing and shorthand teams, and spent her junior and senior years as a cheerleader. She had an early love of music and was a talented clarinetist in the high school and college bands. She was also an accomplished pianist accompanying others, teaching lessons, and playing regularly at church/social events; she cherished music throughout her life. She graduated from Richfield High School in 1960 and maintained lifelong friendships with many of her classmates. She started college at Utah State University but paused her education to accompany her family to Stuttgart, Germany where her parents were called as LDS mission presidents. She continued her studies at the University of Heidelberg for a short time. In Germany, Julie met and married her first husband Dagobert Alfred Otto Klein. Together they returned to Utah and raised their two sons, initially living in Salt Lake City and then Bountiful and Centerville. Following their divorce,

she married Glenn Archibald McKenzie who passed away in 2010. She later married Alfred Lee Welch, who predeceased her on December 19, 2023.

Most of Julie's married life was spent in Davis County, Utah where she had many treasured friendships and cherished memories. In 2017 she and Al moved to St. George, Utah for the agreeable climate and proximity to family. They loved the area, formed enduring friendships, and experienced an abundance of kindness and support and love from family, friends, and ward members, especially during and after Al's illness and passing.

Throughout her life, Julie was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She held numerous ward/stake callings and found great joy in service. She maintained an unwavering testimony of the savior Jesus Christ and encouraged her family and others to do the same.

Julie is survived by her two sons, Dwain Blythe Klein (Alicia), and Derren Alfred Klein (Rebecca), eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, all of whom were each very precious to her and an immense source of joy and pride, and by her sister Marianne Gardner Sorensen (Kendall). She was preceded in death by her parents and sisters Joyce Gardner Tibbetts and Gloria Gardner Crabtree Caudill.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at the LDS Chapel located at 5338 Winchester Drive, St. George, Utah. A visitation will precede the service at 11:00 a.m. Following the funeral, a family gathering will be held at the home of Derren and Rebecca Klein. A brief interment service will be held this spring in Bountiful, Utah.

Family and friends are invited to share tributes online at www.SerenityStG.com. Arrangements and memorial tree planting under the direction of Serenity Funeral Home of Southern Utah, (435) 986-9100.

Previous Events

Viewing

JAN 25. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MT)

Winchester Hills LDS Church
5338 North Winchester Drive
St. George
St. George, UT 84770

Funeral Service

JAN 25. 12:30 PM (MT)

Winchester Hills LDS Church
5338 North Winchester Drive
St. George
St. George, UT 84770

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Dear Dwain and Derren,
I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. As a little girl she was my piano teacher for many years. I grew to love Julie as she was always so patient and kind to me. With her as my teacher, I truly believed that I could be an accomplished pianist someday. I remember the day she told me she had to quit teaching piano. I cried, and cried as she wrapped me in her arms and consoled me. She had a heart as big as the moon. I also remember playing in the neighborhood, especially with you, Darren. We climbed trees, rode our bikes, played tag, etc. I was a tomboy and you were my friend/nemesis as we were always trying to out do each other. One time Darren "double-dog" dared me to drink gutter water . . . I did, and afterwards we became better friends. Julie was a fabulous mother, a loving piano teacher, and I have never forgotten her kindness towards me. What a wonderful woman!!!

with love, Joni (Thomas) Cheney

Joni Thomas Cheney - January 28, 2025 at 09:33 AM

DK

Thank you Joni Thomas, yes those were the days. We certainly had our little 425 west world of its own. My Mother Julie has always been my bestie. My success as an adult are truly a reflection of her as a wonderful Mother and friend. I'm missing her more than ever.

Derren Klein - January 29, 2025 at 12:28 PM

DH

“ Dear Klein and Welch families,
The Richard and Connie Lewis family would like you to know we're thinking of you all and we're so very sorry to hear about Julie. What a loss this is for you, especially knowing the kind of wonderful person. She was to everyone! We have some wonderful, fun memories of her and your family as our neighbors and Bountiful! We would have liked to have made it to St. George to say hello to her before all of this. If anyone could light up a room, it was Julie! Best wishes to you all dealing with this loss and change in your lives. ❤️🙏❤️
Love,
Melanie, Delinda, Mitchell, Monica and Michelle

Delinda Hansing - January 25, 2025 at 02:03 PM

DK

Oh my gosh Delinda I have the most amazing memories of our little old Neiborhood. Thank you for all your patience with this ADHD little brat that I am. My Mother spoke of your family often. We frequently reminisced of the good old days. I've tried to communicate with Michelle the last year but for some reason she's reluctant. I simply would want to thank you and your siblings for all the kindness you showed to me when I was growing up. Michelle was one of my besties and I think of her often. Best regards to you and your whole family. I will post some pics of Mother on Facebook soon. ❤️

Derren Klein - January 29, 2025 at 12:37 PM

SD

“ Scott Crawley, John Calder, Craig Davies purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Julia Gardner Welch.



Scott Crawley, John Calder, Craig Davies - January 24, 2025 at 03:13 AM

MN

“ I was so sorry to hear that Julie had passed away and want to express my deepest sympathy to her loving family. I remember so many fun times we had growing up in Richfield. Julie lived around the corner from me until junior high and we used to skate down the sidewalk, ride horses together to the natatorium and often made mud pies before “playing out” after dinner. Our favorite games were “Beckon, Beckon, “Red Rover, Red Rover,” and “Freeze Tag.” Julie was often the life of the party during our high school years. She accompanied the high school choir as well as a small singing group of girls. I was always amazed at her ability to know just what was needed when we sang. The energy she exhibited as a high school cheer leader was unmatched. If you look at photos of Julie, you will notice she had an impish smile, something we all loved about her. Just know that I am thinking of you, her family, at this difficult time.
Marilyn Haynie Nelson

Marilyn Haynie Nelson - January 23, 2025 at 07:43 PM

DK

Marilyn thank you for always loving my Sweet Mother. You know you have always been her number 1



Derren Klein - January 29, 2025 at 12:41 PM

WE

“ Julie was a special one. Her joy and spunk was contagious. She always kept track of everyone in the family and kept the rest informed. She genuinely loved and served others. I'll never forget the twinkle in her eye and her sweet smile and laugh. She brought sunshine to those she touched. I'm grateful to have had a nice phone visit with her just recently. Still in disbelief that she's moved on. Heaven has received a beautiful angel.



Wend - January 23, 2025 at 12:03 AM

DK

Thank you Wendy, family has always been so important to Mother...

Derren Klein - January 29, 2025 at 12:42 PM



“ *So sorry to hear the news regarding our friend Julie. She had a joyful loving personality. We will miss her.*



Judy Van Duren - January 22, 2025 at 04:57 PM

MM

“ *I remember so many evenings with friends from work gathering at Julie's for dinner, pool time, and laughing our heads off! She was such a joy to spend time with and will be missed terribly. Sending my deepest sympathy to the all of the family, Derren, Dwain, Marianne and all the rest. Your mother/sister was a one of a kind, lovely human!*

Mindi Mordue - January 22, 2025 at 04:07 PM

DK

Thank you Mindi, she loved all her work friends...

Derren Klein - January 29, 2025 at 12:44 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Julia Gardner Welch.*



January 22, 2025 at 03:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Julia Gardner Welch.

January 22, 2025 at 03:13 PM



“ My Mother Julia has been the most amazing Mother. I'm really struggling this week with her passing, but I'm comforted knowing she is safe and sound with love ones once again. Thank you to Russ at Serenity. His dignified way of handling our family at this time of sorrow has been second to none.



Derren Klein - January 22, 2025 at 12:44 PM



I am still in shock to hear about this. I am so sorry for your loss! We sure loved Julie. She was so kind and loving to our family. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family! We love you Julie and we will miss you! 🙏❤️

Tiffany Sylvester Johnson - January 22, 2025 at 03:37 PM