



Lara (Lois) Carbajal

December 16, 2013

Lara Carbajal, fondly remembered as Lois (Wilson) Carbajal, was born in West Texas on August 19, 1939, and grew up on a farm in Hobbs, one mile inside the New Mexico line. She attended college with music and academic scholarships, earning a BS degree in music and education. She taught choral music in middle school and high school the first four years after receiving her New Mexico teaching certification in the Belen and Los Lunas public school systems. While in New Mexico, Lara married a man who became a State Representative and they had three handsome sons and one lovely daughter. Throughout her teaching career, she prepared her students for positions in the All-Region choirs, All-State choirs and scholarships to universities. A few years later, she relocated and accepted a choral director's position in the Friendswood Public School System, south of Houston, Texas. She spent the next twenty-six years in the Houston area.

Her choral groups won many awards, sweepstakes and "Best in Class" at choral festivals and University Scholastic League judging. She directed musicals, and each year her students performed a minimum of two concerts, in addition to community shows with her show choir at hospitals, etc. She was a member of the Texas Music Educators' Association, the Texas Choral Directors' Association and the American Choral Directors' Association.

Lara wrote a curriculum that was used throughout her school district entitled,

"Teaching non-English speaking adolescents English Through Music." She was chosen "Teacher of the Year" by her peers and is listed in two editions of "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" because of her student's nominations. She continued her education through classes and clinics at various colleges and universities, concentrating much of her energy toward her Master's Degree from the University of Houston. Concurrently, Lara developed an adult church choir and served as music director in a large church in Houston for many years. She arranged, wrote script, and often composed music performed at holidays and special events. Over an eight year period, her annual "Patriotic Tribute" for the 4th of July was enjoyed by thousands.

For a short time Lara left teaching and became the top national sales consultant for Princeton Industries, a fund raising company. She helped schools raise money for reading programs, etc. She was asked to give sales training and motivational talks within the company and for other businesses. She enjoyed it but felt her calling was teaching music, so she resumed her teaching career. She toured many countries in Europe three times with a Houston dance band. Independently she traveled the US, Canada and Mexico, and she sang with the Houston Symphony Chorus.

In the late '90's Lara moved back to New Mexico to be with her family. She spent lots of time between Albuquerque and Denver, CO. Many years prior to all of the above, a naive young woman, Lois (Wilson) Carbajal, was a sophomore home from college when she was coaxed into entering their first ever local Miss America pageant. In a whirlwind of unexpected events she won the title of Miss Hobbs, Miss New Mexico and competed in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City. These were new, exciting and awesome (first) experiences, and she vowed to return soon to Atlantic City to attend the pageant as an alumni!

But life had other plans for Lara; Atlantic City became a distant, faded memory, overshadowed with continuing education, marriage, children, career, changes and challenges, extreme grief and tragedies, triumphs and joys. Through the years, even decades of, "life being life" she bore little resemblance to that young girl in the Miss America Pageant. As is only natural, age and maturity especially in her senior years molded her into a woman who viewed life with much more wisdom and faith, authenticity, courage, acceptance, gratitude, compassion, joy and love. She always reminded us that the opposite of fear is Faith!

There is truly an Unseen Power, and miracles occur throughout our lives with or without our conscious awareness. Lara was granted her wish of fulfilling an almost forgotten promise to return to Atlantic City, representing New Mexico and performing on the very stage she had performed on in the Miss America Pageant so many years ago. She sang in the MS. SENIOR AMERICA PAGEANT as not only a contestant but an alumni.

Lara viewed life with a positive attitude, anticipation and enthusiasm. In 2006 she taught the Denver based United Airline flight attendants the music that would be sung at the memorial to the crew of 9/11's Flight 93 and flew with them to Shanksville, Pennsylvania, for their dedication. Up until her illness she continued to perform and to teach music part-time and lovingly care for her family.

Lara passed away at the University of Colorado Hospital, from heart disease, on December 16, 2013. Lara is survived by her loving husband, Dick Carbajal; daughter, Francine Carbajal-Mennenoh; son, David Carbajal; brother, Don F. Shea; sister, Della Dancer and grandchildren, BreAnna Grace Mennenoh, Dylan Carbajal and Daniel Carbajal and preceded in death by her beloved sons, Richard Jr. and Donald Ray Carbajal.

A Memorial Service was held in Lara's memory on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at Horan & McConaty Family Chapel, 11150 East Dartmouth Avenue, Aurora, Colorado, 80014. Another service was held on January 4, 2014 at French Funeral Home on Wyoming Blvd., in Albuquerque, NM. The family would like to thank all of their many friends and family for the prayer, support and kindness that they we have received.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JAN 4. 3:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Wyoming)

7121 Wyoming Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

(505) 823-9400

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Tribute Wall

RO

“Lois was a high school classmate in Hobbs. I remember her as a kind, friendly person, and enjoyed hearing about her many accomplishments and successes over the years. My condolences to her family.

Rose Mary Owen - January 15, 2014 at 12:10 PM

EW

“My deepest condolences to Lois' family, as I remember Lois and Della well from high school. Everett Wilson-Class of 57!

Everett Wilson - January 14, 2014 at 08:24 PM

 Lori
Gottschalk

“We just found out about Ms. Lara's passing. She was our boys' music teacher for the past year, and they just blossomed under her instruction. I was amazed by their progress, and it went beyond her teaching them about music - she was a kind soul and genuinely cared about them. I am so sad. Our condolences to her family.
-Lori Gottschalk

Lori Gottschalk - January 05, 2014 at 08:50 PM



“White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Lara (Lois) Carbajal.



January 03, 2014 at 11:07 AM

JT

“ I had the pleasure of studying under Lara. Each week, my hour lesson with her was the highlight of my week. As a young performer and dreamer, Lara put me in my place and taught me practice makes perfect. That in order to be amazing you have to have feelings and love to back it up. I may not sing for anyone anymore, but I sing with confidence and always still think "what would Lara say?" I contribute my love for classical music and arias to her showing me how beautiful they are.

A beautiful soul, voice, and one of the most caring individuals I have ever met. I hold close to my heart the hours we spent at the piano, sipping emergen'c, and soaking up the classic arias. The world has lost a star! My deepest sympathy to the family and sending my best wishes for the memory of Lara to live on.

"You raise me up... To more than I can be." - Josh Groban

Jeff Tabet

Jeff Tabet - January 02, 2014 at 05:45 PM

EL

“ Lara was our son's voice teacher for several years. She taught Jeffrey how to sing, and she also taught him love, confidence, and a joy for music. When I married eight years ago, Lara played the piano and my son sang. I will never forget the beautiful music, the beautiful voices, and her beautiful persona. She contributed so much to our lives. God bless you, Ms. Lara, you will be missed!
Elena Lopez (Jeffrey Tabet's mom)

Elena Lopez - January 01, 2014 at 06:32 PM

LJ

“ My dear Aunt Lois was one of my favorite Aunts. She was so beautiful and so very talented. Whenever I was around her I always felt as though I was in the presence of someone very special. As a small child, I thought movie stars were certainly like my Aunt Lois, she was always so glamorous to me. Growing up in a small town, where everyone sort of looks alike and is pretty similar, my Aunt Lois was like an alien, in a good way. In her own way, she reinforced to me and others, that there was a whole other world/life outside of our small town. Aunt Lois, thank you for staying true to yourself and demonstrating how this is done. Linda Jaramillo

Linda D. Jaramillo - December 31, 2013 at 07:17 PM

HH

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

Harold Hamilton - December 28, 2013 at 04:09 PM

DA

I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Lara. She was a very special person that helped me through some of the darkest times and I will always be grateful for having known her.
Darleen

Darleen - December 31, 2013 at 02:01 PM