

Celebration of Life

Rebecca Jodene Spalding, 55



Rebecca Jodene Spalding, 55, of Blackfoot, passed away Monday, May 31, 2010 at her home from causes due to a lingering illness.

Rebecca was born in Blackfoot, ID on September 8, 1954 to Norman Dean and M. Joan McKercher Lewis. She was raised in the Blackfoot area and attended schools in the Blackfoot school district. During her junior year of school she conceived a child, Thomas John, with her high school sweetheart Brent Taylor, and although they never married, Rebecca and Brent remained friends throughout the years. In spite of the additional challenges she faced as a teenage mother Rebecca put forth extra effort and was able to walk with her classmates as one of the top graduates in the Blackfoot High School class of 1972.

Rebecca continued her education at Idaho State University and was near completion when she met and married Trent "Jake" Jacobs. They moved to Boise, ID but after only three short years of marriage Rebecca suffered the loss of her spouse when Jake was killed, the victim of a murder. A short time later she was again struck with sorrow as her infant son, Trent, passed away from SIDS.

However, Rebecca was determined to face her trials and moved forward in life. In November of 1983 she remarried, this time to Jim Spalding. In 1984 they moved their family to Lakeland, Florida. While in Lakeland Rebecca took a job with a mortgage banking firm and through the years she was promoted within the company and was eventually named as the Vice-President. She also wrote and published a self-help book for helping people understand home mortgages. It was also during those years when she worked overtime as she and Jim raised their five children together. Through it all she was able to balance her duties as a professional and a mother.

In late 1996 they relocated back to Boise and in 1998 Rebecca enrolled at Boise State to finish her education. In 1999 she completed her Bachelors of Science and in 2001 she earned her Masters degree in science. She has since worked as a licensed social worker for the State of Idaho and Bingham County.

Rebecca was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and was very involved with the Girls State program. In her younger years she enjoyed playing softball, volleyball and bowling and most recently had found enjoyment in beadwork and oil painting.

She is survived by her husband, Jim, of Blackfoot; a son, Thomas Jon Jacobs of Portland, OR; two step-sons Merek Tal Spalding of Clearfield, UT and James David Spalding of Orlando, FL; two step-daughters, Deborah (Guy) Stegman of Neaosh, Missouri, and Tonya Christine Spalding (Jim Graham) of Clearfield, UT; her mother, Joan Schafer of Blackfoot; 7 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren with one more soon to be born.

She was preceded in death by her son Trent, father Dean, step-father Gordon Morris, and her brother Thomas F. Lewis.

The celebration of Rebecca's life will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on November 26, 2010 at the Hawker Funeral Home, 132 South Shilling Avenue in Blackfoot. Family suggests memorials in lieu of flowers to be made to the Stewart Hoover Post #23, Girls State with the Ladies Auxiliary, P.O. Box 753, Blackfoot, Idaho 83221. Condolences may be sent to condolences@hawkerfuneralhome.com.