



Excerpt from
"Love-The Universal Language,"
From the Heart,
copyright Lori Nelzen, 1988

*"Love speaks through a bouquet of
dandelions given a busy mother. Love
speaks through a smile and a wiping
away of a tear...Love speaks with
kindness and patience to a sister or
brother...Speak love to others."*



A Celebration of Life

Hesston United Methodist Church
606 N. Ridge Road, Hesston, KS 67062
Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM

Prelude recording: *Water Music*,
George Frideric Handel

Welcome: Kevin Brown

Music recording: "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth"
from G.F. Handel's *Messiah*

Reading: Psalm 100, Melissa Brown

Music: *Amazing Grace*, Sims family

Memories of Celebration
~ Son: Dr. John Nelzén
~ Brother: Kevin Brown
~ Family and Friends

Music: *In the Garden*, Sims family

Conclusion: Kevin Brown

Postlude recording: Études, Frédéric Chopin

*Please join us in the fellowship hall
downstairs for light refreshments.*

Final Resting Place

Lori Jeanette Brown Nelzen was laid to rest this
morning at the McPherson Cemetery.

Appreciation and Memorial Donations

Lori's family expresses gratitude for your
attendance. In lieu of flowers, donations are
suggested to the Ky-Mel Foundation in care of
Stockham Family Funeral Home. This foundation
continues the work of the Donna and Clinton
Brown family and others to help children with
cancer enjoy summer together at Camp Hope.

Stockham Family Funeral Home



Celebrating the Life of
Lori Jeanette Brown Nelzen
April 26, 1956 - December 7, 2025



*Celebrating the Life of
Lori Jeanette Brown Nelzen*



Lori Jeanette (Brown) Nelzen (April 26, 1956–Dec. 7, 2025) was born in Dodge City, KS, married in McPherson, earned a BA at McPherson College, and lived in Hesston.

She taught baton twirling; played the flute; wrote poetry; and loved art, cats, and Bible study. Lori was grateful for friends, family, church, and community.

She is preceded by Clinton and Donna Brown (parents), and Melani and Kyle (siblings).

Lori is survived by Tony Nelzen (Kathy), son John Nelzén (Elizabeth), two grandchildren (Soren and Bridget), brother Kevin Brown (Pam), niece Melissa (Jenny), and nephews Kyle and Cameron.

Always creative, Lori Jeanette (Brown) Nelzen loved painting, drawing, and writing. She was very religious, always remembered birthdays, and was grateful for her friends and family throughout her life.

Lori's birth brought joy and she quickly proved herself creative with a sense of humor. Lori was born April 26, 1956, in Dodge City, KS to (Herbert) Clinton and Donna (Sims) Brown. Donna, herself fond of dresses, borrowed a sewing machine from her mother so she could learn to make pretty dresses for Lori. Clinton, Donna, older brother Kevin, and Lori moved to Lincoln, KS in 1957 for Clinton's job teaching history and coaching. At a young age, Lori organized neighborhood children into performances she had written. She also once literally stole the bases while playing baseball. Lori became a mascot cheerleader in Lincoln.

Lori's interests grew over time and she always remained curious. She played flute, enjoyed tennis, and twirled batons. She loved her fire-baton routines even though they made her parents nervous, and tutored other twirlers — teaching runs in the family. Childhood trips and the 1983 vacation with husband Tony and young son John Nelzén to Colorado were likely inspirational for Lori's paintings. Mountains, landscapes, birds, cats, Christian themes, and butterflies in younger sister Melani's style were among her favorite subjects. Lori collected poems into a 1988 book, "From the Heart." She loved '70s and '80s music, but also enjoyed Handel and Chopin. Like her parents, she avidly read, especially on religious topics or places like Paris. Lori's and Tony's books, including Lori's German textbooks and a copy of Tolstoy, left an impression on their son. Lori enjoyed sharing her creativity and curiosity and often gave artwork and writings to family and friends.

Family and friends were always important to Lori. She loved family time, whether on short childhood vacations from the Browns' new home in McPherson to Topeka and Kansas City, or just swimming together. Everyone grieved her younger sibling Kyle's death in 1971. Melani's death in 1980 was especially

*Honor
Loving Memory*

hard for Lori. The end of Lori's marriage after it did not work out was also a difficult transition. Even so, she continued to find joy in loved ones. She included family stories and drawings by her young son in her "Never Before Seen: Your Magazine." She colored and drew with Kevin's daughter Melissa, and spent time with Kevin's sons Kyle and Cameron. She sent simple but interesting gifts to children in the family, like coins, \$2 bills, or drawings. Family pet cats were dear to her. She often prayed with neighbors. Lori also frequently wrote John and always asked about her grandchildren.

After John studied at KU, abroad, and at University of Chicago, he met Elizabeth Slack. Elizabeth studied at Oberlin College, served in the Peace Corps, then earned her master's degree in Illinois. While John was working in Illinois, John and Elizabeth met at a caving event at a scout camp. They later married, and Elizabeth still jokes that they met when she crawled out from under a rock. John and Elizabeth's children Soren and Bridget were born in Florida, where John earned his doctorate. The books and plush animals Lori gave to Soren and Bridget Nelzén are among their favorites. She often sent them cards and letters. They always enjoyed her whimsical angel cats and they remain a pleasant family memory.

Lori held onto her own cherished family memories, including those of her late brother and sister. She occasionally spoke of their "heavenly birthdays." On the occasion of Lori's own "heavenly birthday" on December 7, 2025, her family is grateful for those who join in celebrating Lori's life. Her family remains thankful for the kindness, love, and generosity of community and friends, especially but not limited to those from McPherson, Hesston, and Newton.