

## **Karen Booth Gwaltney, 76**

**Sept. 22, 1936 - Sept. 2, 2013**

**DENVER, CO** — Karen

Lee Booth Gwaltney was born on September 22, 1936 in Des Moines to May Thompson and John Hoyt Booth. She moved with her family to Waterloo in 1939 and attended Whittier Elementary School and West Junior High School and graduated from West High School in 1954. Karen attended Iowa State College in Ames, where she majored in Home Economics and was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority. Following her graduation, she taught Home Economics



at Tripoli High School for two years and Central Junior High School in Iowa City for eight years. She was head of the Home Economics Department in the Iowa City Schools.

It was in Iowa City that Karen met and married the Rev. Robert M. Gwaltney. Karen and Robb moved to Edina, MN when Robb was hired as an associate pastor. They moved to Denver, CO in 1972 when Robb was asked to start a new church. In Denver, Karen worked at Frontier Airlines. She attended Colorado State University at Fort Collins, earning her Master's Degree in 1977. Karen and Robb remained friends after Robb moved to New York City, evidence of their love and long-standing commitment to each other. After Robb's departure, Karen lived in Denver with her partner Jack Hicks for almost 20 years, until his passing. She worked with babies at Little Lambs, with high school girls at Arapaho Community College, and then at the University Center, where she became director. Most recently, Karen enjoyed living at the Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Community in Denver. Karen died on September 2, 2013 at age 76, of progressive Alzheimer's disease and complications from a fall.

Karen will be greatly missed by her sister (Nancy Hagstrom), her nephew and niece and their families (Bruce, Cathe, Holly, Haley, Susan and Mark), and her former husband, the Rev. Robert M. Gwaltney.

During her life, Karen received great joy from spending time with family, children, and dear friends. She also enjoyed sewing beautiful clothes and gifts, walking, singing, and being with her beloved fluffy, white, Bichon Frise companions. Throughout her life, she continually demonstrated great love and compassion for people and animals, serving her God with hope and love, during both hardship and better times. Her happy laugh brought light to every heart and her kind soul was a blessing to all.

A simple service will be held at the Danway Cemetery near Irwin at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 9. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to one of the following organizations in memory of Karen: The Gathering Place <http://www.tgpdenver.org> and Small Paws Rescue <http://smallpawsrescue.org>