



Loralee Johnson	October 7th	Ilean Hazel	October 23rd
Ellen Starr	October 15th	Evelyn Christian	October 29th
Connie Carter	October 21st		

Salem Senior Spotlight

Sharon Gunderson Braithwaite

Sharon was born February 21, 1943 in the Payson, Utah Hospital to Millie and Elden Gunderson. She was the youngest of four children- one sister and two brothers.

Sharon's parents had a dairy farm with 60 acres of land between Spanish Fork and Salem. She lived there all her growing-up years. She loved her cats and dogs and she always loved riding horses. She helped her dad by driving the tractor, hauling hay, and taking the cows back and forth from the pasture, etc. She was probably about 14 at that time so it was way fun driving. Some of her other chores were to feed the lambs from a bottle and feed calves from a bucket. The lambs would follow her everywhere.

She rode the bus to Thurber Elementary School in Spanish Fork. She went to church in Salem (There was only one ward then) but she attended Primary and her early years of Mutual in Spanish Fork Ninth Ward because she wanted to with friends whom she went to school with. She graduated from Spanish Fork High School and Seminary in 1961.

Sharon attended Snow College in Ephraim and got reacquainted with Ron Braithwaite, who before his mission had dated one of her friends. Ron and Sharon were married on June 27, 1963 in the Salt Lake Temple.

They lived in Midvale for a short time for Ron's job but then the contract ran out on his job, so they moved to Spanish fork, rented there and made the decision for him to attend BYU and get a degree to teach Industrial Education.

Sharon worked in Spanish Fork at the First Security Bank as a secretary while Ron attended BYU and worked at Premium Oil. They were married 3 ½ years and then started their family. They have 5 daughters and 1 son: Tammy, Cindy, Cathi Lynn, Suzanne, Valorie & Scott. Sharon was fortunate enough to stay at home to raise their children. Now they have 24 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren, with one more on the way.

They built their home next to her parents so they had great help with their children whether it was tending or whatever they needed. They were also able to help them in their later years.

Ron and Sharon have enjoyed traveling since his retirement. They toured Europe for a week and then they went to England to pick up their son from his mission. Ron and Scott both served their missions in London, England so it was fun to see where they served. Some of their favorite trips were Alaska, Hawaii, a Panama Canal cruise, Washington DC and the Canadian Rockies.

They have a family help day each year where they invite their kids and grandkids to come help them with a variety of projects around the yard. They have an acre of land so there is always plenty of work to do. This year they needed a giant woodpile moved. At the end of the day they have a barbeque or pizza. It is a great way to keep the family connected and a great help to them to get things accomplished. Also, it's fun when you're working together with family.

Sharon enjoys embroidering, crocheting, sewing and watching BYU football and basketball and the Utah Jazz.

During this weird time of COVID-19 she has caught up on scrapbooking, crocheted 3 afghans, sewed face masks, read a few books and of course yardwork—weeding, weeding and more weeding—and spending quality time with family.

Sharon hopes it won't be too long until we are all together again at Seniors to visit, enjoy each other's company and the fun activities provided there.