

A Celebration of Life



Leslie Wind

March 4, 1951 - August 30, 2021

September 26, 2021

1:00 to 4:00 pm

Gabilan Courtyard

University of Southern California



Leslie Wind was born in Washington DC in 1951 to parents immersed in the music industry. She briefly joined the Hollywood music production scene after high school, but eventually moved in an academic direction, obtaining an MSW from UCLA and a PhD from the USC School of Social Work

Leslie was an educator, clinician, researcher, advocate, community organizer, author and mentor. Initially a clinical social worker in private practice, she also served in clinical director roles with a mental health agency and a residential treatment facility. She then entered the field of academia as an assistant professor at Boston College. In 2008, Leslie joined USC as a clinical associate professor and director of the Orange County Academic Center, where she was later honored with NASW's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Most recently, Leslie was USC's Senior Associate Dean and Chair of the MSW program. In this role, she demonstrated how a person can simultaneously be a great problem solver, stick-your-neck-out risk-taker, and disciplined organizational leader while also showing tremendous compassion for people.

For all of Leslie's professional accomplishments, family was always her first priority. She and Jim were happily married for over 41 years, and together they built a life as personal partners, professional colleagues, and caring parents and grandparents. Leslie was also an "adopted mom" and mentor to countless students and colleagues – a world traveler and lover of Hawaii and big dogs – and a woman who always put others first. Leslie always did what she loved, and regularly reminded us that life is short. In fact, her Amazon Prime password was "lovethismoment!"

Finally, Leslie battled a sinister cancer for more than 9 years ... 8 years longer than doctors had predicted. Her grace, positive attitude, and unflinching courage, however, were a continuing source of inspiration. Leslie was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother, leader, colleague, clinician, mentor and friend. She touched so many lives. She left so many legacies. And she will be forever missed. Rest in peace, Leslie.



Program

Welcome Sarah Gehlert
Dean
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Speakers Jim Wind
Husband

Rachel Gardner
Alumna
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Di Dimapindan
Director of Academic and Faculty Affairs
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Dorian Traube
Associate Professor
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Jacquelyn McCroskey
Professor
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Video Tributes

Reception Light refreshments will be served





THIS IS YOUR **LIFE.**
DO WHAT YOU LOVE, AND DO IT OFTEN.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING, CHANGE IT.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR JOB, QUIT.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, STOP WATCHING TV.
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE, STOP;
THEY WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU
START DOING THINGS YOU LOVE.
STOP OVER ANALYZING, ALL EMOTIONS ARE BEAUTIFUL.
LIFE IS SIMPLE. WHEN YOU EAT, APPRECIATE EVERY LAST BITE.
OPEN YOUR MIND, ARMS, AND HEART TO NEW THINGS
AND PEOPLE, WE ARE UNITED IN OUR DIFFERENCES.
ASK THE NEXT PERSON YOU SEE WHAT THEIR PASSION IS,
AND SHARE YOUR INSPIRING DREAM WITH THEM.
TRAVEL OFTEN; GETTING LOST WILL
HELP YOU FIND YOURSELF.
SOME OPPORTUNITIES ONLY COME ONCE, SEIZE THEM.
LIFE IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU MEET, AND
THE THINGS YOU CREATE WITH THEM
SO GO OUT AND START CREATING.
LIFE IS LIVE YOUR DREAM
SHORT. AND SHARE YOUR PASSION.