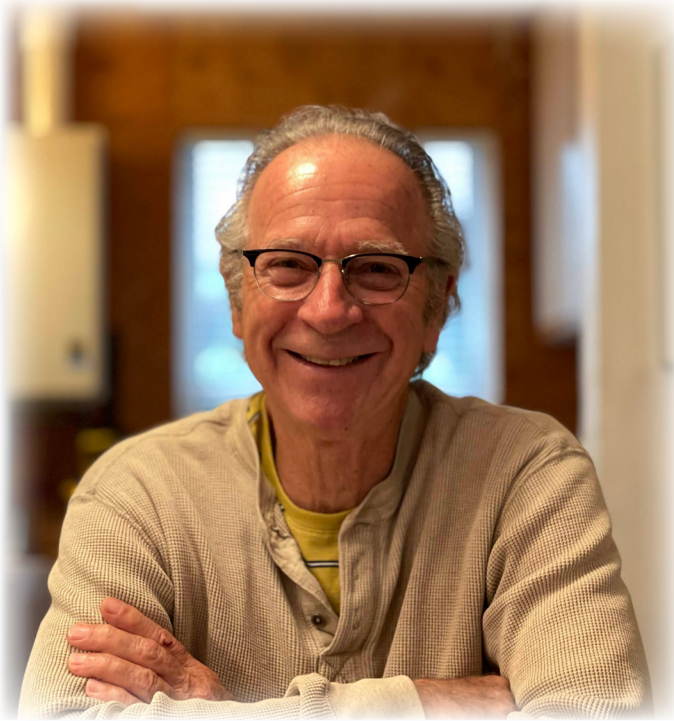


# IN MEMORIAM



GARY JOSEPH  
POLIZZI  
1948 – 2023

Vedanta Society of Southern California  
Sunday August 27, 2023, 4 pm

GARY JOSEPH POLIZZI, a dedicated father, friend, and builder of many things, passed away on July 17, 2023, at the age of 74. Born on November 26, 1948, Gary lived a life filled with purpose, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and generosity that touched the lives of many.

Gary's professional journey was marked by his invaluable contributions to schools all over Southern California. His expertise and commitment to upgrading infrastructure improved the educational environment for countless students.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Gary had a profound love for Big Bear Lake, where he embraced boating and enjoyed precious moments surrounded by the beauty of nature. He had a cabin that he cherished, and working on it brought him joy and satisfaction. Additionally, he had a passion for collecting antiques, finding fascination in the stories behind each unique piece.

Gary is survived by his loving daughter, Amanda Fox. He still resides in the hearts of his family and close friends.

Gary's personality was marked by his genuine compassion and generosity. His unwavering belief in "everything in moderation" reflected his balanced approach to life, and he consistently practiced kindness, even in the face of adversity. He touched the hearts of everyone he encountered, leaving behind a trail of small gestures that made the world a better place.

Gary loved the Hollywood Temple, and came to embrace Vedanta. This enabled his innate sense of purpose, love, and ingenuity to manifest in new ways. He devoted himself to making the buildings here stronger and more beautiful—they represented to him a manifestation of Vedanta. Gary wanted everything that he touched at the center to be a lasting outward reflection of Vedanta's strength. Gary was quietly proud of his work at Vedanta because he understood the importance of the place and its accomplishments. While here, Gary also grew internally, even as he built externally. Although modest in his spirituality, Gary was very grateful for his role in this place and movement. At one point in his last illness, Gary was asked by a hospital social worker if he wished to identify his religion. Without hesitating, Gary said "Vedanta." The worker did not understand and responded, "Do you mean spiritual?" Gary replied: "No, I mean Vedanta." The worker then said "Hindu?" Gary's wise and moving response: "No, just Vedanta." It was evident to one who was present that

*Concluded on back*

ॐ असतो मा सद्गमय। तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय।  
मृत्योर्माऽमृतं गमय ॥ आविरावीर्म एधि। रुद्र यत्ते  
दक्षिणं मुखम्। तेन मां पाहि नित्यम् ॥  
ॐ शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ॥

*om asato mā sadgamaya;  
tamaso mā jyotirgamaya;  
mrtyormā'mṛtaṁ gamaya.  
āvīrāvīrma edhi.  
rudra yatte dakṣiṇaṁ mukham,  
tena mām pāhi nityam.  
om śāntiḥ śāntiḥ śāntiḥ!*

From the unreal, lead us to the Real.  
From darkness, lead us unto Light.  
From death, lead us to Immortality.  
Reach us through and through our self,  
and evermore protect us, O Lord,  
from ignorance,  
by thy sweet, compassionate face.  
Om peace, peace, peace!

*Continued from previous page*

Gary had realized the basic concept that Brahman is one. Gary's words that night, and the deep love, loyalty, and devotion Gary manifested in his practical life, show that he had deeply internalized the teachings of Vedanta.

As we mourn Gary's passing from this body, let us also celebrate the life of a remarkable man whose kindness and warmth brightened the world for all who knew him. May his memory forever remain in our hearts, inspiring us to follow in his footsteps of love, generosity, and unwavering kindness.