



Elaine Gilley Boccagno

April 28, 1957 - December 1, 2020

Elaine Gilley Boccagno passed away at home on December 1, 2020. She was a wonderful partner, daughter, sister, mother, and friend. She was diagnosed with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA), rare neurological illness, which she fought courageously for several years. As she said, she was sick of being sick and was ready to just be done. Elaine was born April 28, 1957 in Salt Lake City, Utah to Ruth Breeze Gilley and Charles Gilley. When she was young, she took dancing lessons, which she enjoyed and was very good at. She graduated from Cottonwood High School in 1975 where she enjoyed participating in gymnastics. Elaine married Steve Boccagno on November 25, 1986 and later divorced. Their daughter Hillary Paige was born in 1991. Elaine met Al Soucie at Alta and they became loving partners. Al supported Elaine throughout her illness, caring for her every need. Her family deeply appreciates the dedication he has shown to Elaine. Elaine LOVED to ski, mostly Telemark style and her favorite place was Alta. When healthy, she also liked to ride her bicycle and hike and fly fish in the Uinta Mountains along the Mirror Lake highway. Al introduced Elaine to fly fishing after she expressed an interest. Elaine is survived by her faithful partner Al Soucie, her daughter Hillary, her mother Ruth, and her siblings: Sandy (Frank) Campbell, Keith (Kathy) Gilley, Becky (Kurt) Allgaier, Bobbie (Jack) Elmer, and Deon Gilley. She was preceded in death by her father. The family wishes to thank nurse Jamie Miller and other caring staff from Harmony Home Health & Hospice for their compassionate care. Due to the COVID-19 virus there will be no service at this time. In the future when group gathering is safe, a "Celebration of Life" will likely take place at Alta which was one of Elaine's favorite places.

Comments



“ I Keith sure miss my younger sister, ever since she was young she was always so positive and up beat and fun to be around. We had some good times getting in the firewood for the winter, doing the gardening in the summer and our favorite activity, skiing in the beautiful mountains we both loved. Elaine was a health nut before health nuts came to be so we all wonder why she was the one to get such a terrible disease and endure so much suffering (which she never really complained about) for several years. Elaine was so fortunate to have a soulmate named Al who took such loving care of her throughout her ordeal, we as a family will always be so grateful to him. Elaine is now free of her trials and pain and with family and friends who have gone before. We will always remember Her and miss Her. Love , Keith- Kathy

keith Gilley - February 13 at 05:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



mtnmanal - December 21, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ My family and I are so sorry for your loss, Albert. You and her family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Love,

Patty (Morlino) and Eddie Burnett and John and Anne Morlino

patty burnett - January 28 at 10:26 AM



“ My Aunt Elaine was one of the healthiest, down to earth and most conscientious people I have ever met. She made her own bread and grew her own garden food long before "organic" became a buzz word for many. She spent many (80) days a year skiing on a mountain she loved. She walked her dog daily. I can't say that I will ever understand how she drew the short straw in being diagnosed with the rarest of rare diseases. Long before I was a mother, I remember my Aunt Elaine sacrificing daily to provide love, sacrifice and the best of nurturing to her daughter. I don't believe I have met a more dedicated mother. She loved her family, she loved the world and she loved the Earth. I was 8 years old the first time Aunt Elaine took me skiing. I'll never forget her passion in sharing the sport she loved so dearly with me. I remember staying up late into the night sharing stories when she and Hillary came to visit my family in Southern California. I feel sad for the heart break Elaine endured, but she never quit fighting. I am grateful for the love and care Al provided her. I am thankful my Grandma, my mom (Elaine's sister Sandy) and I had the opportunity to visit Elaine and Al in Maine. It was a special trip that I won't forget. I can only hope that Elaine is with my Grandpa in a better place. I love you Aunt Elaine.
--Shauna Hutchinson

Sandy Campbell - December 19, 2020 at 11:21 PM



“ Very nice Shauna, Al
mtzmanal - December 21, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ I could not have asked for a better sister than Elaine. I felt like we shared a special bond as I was the oldest of the first three children and eleven years later Elaine was the oldest of the last three children. I loved to go for walks with her when she was little, and she rode in the little red wagon. When I was practicing high jumping for a school track meet, we made her a miniature high jump and she practiced right along side of me until she got so stiff she could hardly get out of bed. We confided in each other totally. When either of us went through hard times we would visit or have lengthy phone conversations. When she and Al decided to move to Maine, I was sad for myself because I knew we would rarely, if ever, see each other again but I was glad for her and her new adventure. Elaine was very special. I loved her and will miss her greatly. On the other hand, I know she was tired of fighting the battle of her illness and was ready to be done. She is now free, visiting with Dad and enjoying all that heaven has to offer.
Sandy Campbell, Sister

Sandy Campbell - December 19, 2020 at 11:05 PM



“ Hello Al,

I thoroughly enjoyed our visits in Holladay, Sandy, and in Ellsworth with Elaine, you, and of course Misty. My fondest memories are having dinner at your house in Holladay. We would all cook together, share stories, sip some wine, bourbon or scotch. And really enjoyed going to the Unitarian Church for Blue Grass concerts with your and Elaine. That was fun. Unfortunately I have no pictures but do have great memories. Much love and condolences from Ken and Callie Parr; Minden, Nevada.

KENNETH PARR - December 15, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ Thanks Ken and Callie, appreciate your thoughts and support, Al

mtnmanal - December 16, 2020 at 01:50 PM



“ Dear Al,

We only met twice, but I know you are a kind and good man and I was so glad you and Elaine found each other. I know she really loved and appreciated you; she told me you are a wonderful man and she felt really bad because "Al did not sign-up for this."

God bless you for having the kindness and compassion to be such a good, faithful, and loving friend to her. She was also the best kind of friend to have!

My prayers go out to you,
Ruth (Stevens) Glass

Ruth (Stevens) Glass - December 14, 2020 at 05:26 PM



“ Thanks Ruth, I appreciate your thoughts, Al

mtnmanal - December 16, 2020 at 01:51 PM



“ Well, today is what would have been Elaine's 64th birthday. Words cannot explain how much I have missed my dear sweet sister since she left us on December 1, 2020. She has left a deep void in the lives of those who cared for her and loved her. Here is hoping she is enjoying life with Mom and Dad and all of her loved ones who have gone on before. Happy, happy birthday sweet angel.

Sandy - April 28 at 07:05 PM



“ I always loved Elaine's smile - she always looked like she knew something more but was not telling! She wrote in our senior yearbook "...Please remember me, Ruth..." No chance of forgetting such a kind soul!
My deepest condolences to Sister Gilley, Bobbi & Deon, Becky, Sandra, and Keith; I know your Dad and the Hanson twins, along with many others were there to greet her.
Love,
Ruth (Stevens) Glass, granddaughter of your neighbor, Martha Hanson

Ruth (Stevens) Glass - December 14, 2020 at 05:10 PM



“ My first memory of Elaine was at Al's house. She had a sparkle in her eye for him! I enjoyed Elaine's gentle spirit and quiet strength. Great sense of humor.

I have a good memory to share from this past year as well: I went to Elaine and Al's place to see if I could help Elaine download the Diane Rehm podcast. Technical difficulties... when we finally got it, and hit play, Elaine's face lit up to hear Diane's voice - it was as if Elaine was hearing the voice of an old friend. A moment of grace and relief. My heart is with Elaine's peeps. Al, I am thinking of you and will keep checking in. Much love. -M'Leah

M'Leah - December 12, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ Thanks M'Leah, Elaine always enjoyed listening to the Diane Rehm show on PBS. Al
mtzmanal - December 16, 2020 at 01:55 PM



“ To Al and Elaine's family, please accept my sincerest condolences. I know Al you were there for Elaine through thick and thin and especially through the challenging times. Believe me when I say it did not go unnoticed and your families appreciate it! Take care of yourself Al, your friend,

Larry R. Velarde

Larry R. Velarde - December 10, 2020 at 04:19 PM



“ 28 files added to the album Memories Album



mtnmanal - December 10, 2020 at 01:10 PM



“ These are beautiful memories. RIP Elaine.

Charlene - December 13, 2020 at 07:16 PM



“ Charlene, thanks for you and Greg being close friends, Al

mtnmanal - December 16, 2020 at 01:57 PM



“ I met Elaine through Al not long after they began dating, and was honored to be included in their ongoing circle of love. As much as she felt at home in the outdoors, the frustration of not being able to continue her beloved activities was compounded by the confusion of not knowing why for so long. I admired her decision to join Al in the adventure of moving to New England even as she struggled for understanding of what was happening to her body. I missed them and was glad they returned to Salt Lake so she could be closer to her family and old friends when her rare diagnosis became evident. We always enjoyed having dinners together, particularly for each others birthdays, and that continued right up until the pandemic. I know Elaine is at peace now, and hope all her family, friends and loved ones can be as well, with wonderful memories of good times with Elaine's generous, kind and gracious spirit.

Karen Kelley - December 09, 2020 at 12:41 PM



“ Karen, thanks for your friendship and support, Al

mtnmanal - December 16, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ One of my best memories of shared time with Elaine is skiing at Alta. She was a beautiful, strong, telemark skier, gracefully flowing through the powder with her long think braid of gorgeous hair bouncing down her back.

Judi Gooding - December 09, 2020 at 11:56 AM



“ Elaine was certainly a strong and beautiful skier, I could seldom keep up with her. Thanks for you and Trips long time close friendship, Al

mtnmanal - December 16, 2020 at 02:01 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Roxy Woodman - December 08, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ Roxy, Good choice of photos, thanks for sharing, Al

mtnmanal - December 16, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



mtnmanal - December 07, 2020 at 05:22 PM



“ I met Elaine at Al's in Utah while skiing with my friend Linda. She was a pleasant and gracious woman. I then met her again in Ellsworth at hers and Al's home and I remember how she had so many various preserves and juices she had made herself, as she was very health conscious and a smart woman too! I believe that she is at peace now and wish Al many prayers of healing , comfort, and love.....and hugs....

Trisha OBrien - December 06, 2020 at 07:20 PM



“ Dennis and I remember very fondly Elaine's positive way of living and her courage. Our prayers are with her and her loved ones.

Linda King - December 06, 2020 at 04:27 PM



“ I first met Elaine at Alta, was introduced by good friend Vivian and Mark and we skied together that day. I believe that was Feb 2009. Much to my surprise she wanted to continue dating. She was an outstanding skier and a wonderful woman and we soon realized we shared much in common. I think we both felt that we had brought something into each other's lives that was not there before. Over the coming years we did at least one river trip with friends down the main Salmon R in Idaho, she was a river rat; we went cross country skiing in the Sawtooths; I introduced her to fly fishing which she began to like and I was with her when she caught her first trout on a fly. Elaine was an athlete and loved to ski, bike, hike, water ski, etc.. Our favorite times were spent hiking and fishing in the Uinta Mtns and lakes, riding our bikes, skiing at Alta and hiking in the Cottonwood Cyns with our friends. Elaine loved to bake bread, put up preserves and made grape juice from her outstanding grape vines at her house. She made lots of close friends skiing at Alta. We moved to Maine and bought a nice house there in Ellsworth, which is close to the coast and 30 from Acadia National Park. We both enjoyed our home in a very rural setting there and I purchased a boat to enjoy the many lakes that were abundant in Maine. Elaine caught the biggest and first landlocked salmon between us. Unfortunately Elaine's illness became more prevalent and the diagnosis became more evident. We realized we had no support there and made the difficult choice to sell our home and move back to SLC. We were fortunate to find a ground level condominium in Sandy, Utah. I felt fortunate, especially for Elaine, to have her at home the entire time until she passed away. She was under hospice care for over a year and the entire time until she passed. Her hospice nurse, Jamie Miller, was outstanding, as well as others from that program. Her last couple of years made me feel helpless at times, frustrated, wishing I could do more to help her. I loved her much and will never forget her. She was my best friend, my lover and my buddy. She is now in a better place and I will do my best to move forward. Al

mtnmanal - December 06, 2020 at 02:36 PM



“ Al, Great writing. You were great support for her and I know she appreciated it. Sorry for your loss. Mark

Mark Schulthess - December 06, 2020 at 10:03 PM



“ Elaine's wishes were to have her brain tissue donated to research which I finally closed that circle for her several days before she passed. The Braine Tissue Bank is located with the Mayo Clinic in Florida. She passed away from complications with a rare neurological disease.

I suggest if folks can and care to make a donation please donate to the following in honor of Elaine:

American Brain Foundation, 201 Chicago, Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Thanks, Al Soucie

mtnmanal - December 07, 2020 at 05:39 PM



“ I met Elaine at Alta. It was one of those days when the snow was coming down so hard we got to ski every chair untracked soft fun. This day the road closed in the afternoon for avalanche control. We both stayed out on the mountain and skied until closing and got

stuck up the canyon. After that we became fast friends. Elaine always had a certain sparkle about her when she was out on the snow. We started skiing together and she helped me become a better telemark skier and we solved many world problems on the ski chair. We had many adventures together. One season after Alta closed we met every Saturday to go hiking at Alta, riding the shuttle and hiking to all the ridges and peaks. She always talked me into going further.

I got to go to Maine and stay with Elaine and Al in their lovely home. I did not want her to go but I was happy for her and Al.

My husband planted grapes in our back yard after he tasted her juice. She taught me how to prune and take care of the vines. She would try the juice I made and let me know if I should change something. I even had to get her mothers seal of approval. This year I made 10 quarts for 2020.

We always had a saying when we would part, not goodbye, but say thanks for being my friend. So Elaine i will miss you and

Thanks for being my friend

.love Roxy

Roxy Woodman - December 08, 2020 at 12:13 PM



“ Dear Al, We only met twice, but I knew you were kind and a good man. I was so glad you and Elaine found each other. It's so very satisfying to have a true friend. Elaine really loved and appreciated you. She told me you are a wonderful man and she really felt bad because "Al did not sign-up for this." I am thankful that you have the kindness and compassion to be such a good and faithful friend to her and that she always had someone to be right there for her during such frustrating, trying times. Also that you made her happy and shared so many delightful memories together.

My heart goes out to you and my prayers go with you,

Ruth Glass

Ruth - December 14, 2020 at 06:29 PM



“ 13 files added to the album Memories Album



mtnmanal - December 06, 2020 at 01:49 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Albert J Soucie - December 05, 2020 at 05:38 PM



“ So very sad, Elaine had a such a wonderful spirit and inner grace that made others feel very comfortable being around her.

Unfortunately when Elaine and Al moved to Maine Elaine was already in such pain from the illness that eventually took her life she was a shell of her former self. She tried so hard but it was not to be.

I feel so sad for Cousin Al, he found the ideal soul mate. They had many wonderful times together and shared so much. Very tragic.

Love you Coz.

Denny and Linda.

dennis j king - December 06, 2020 at 05:04 PM



“ Elaine was a brilliant skier who could telemark like few could. I'am constantly humbled by how good she was. The standing rumor was she skied WELL into her ninth month of pregnancy! She will be missed. Steven Maggie.

steven summers - December 07, 2020 at 11:45 AM