



Gail Elaine Ganzlin

February 24, 1957 - March 27, 2021

Gail Elaine Ganzlin passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 27th after a courageous, heroic, and miraculous 22-year battle with metastatic breast cancer. The cancer never stood a chance against her joie di-vivre (exuberant enjoyment for life) which lives on in her works of art, her publications, her non-profit contributions and most importantly, in the lives of her family and friends.

Gail was born on February 24th, 1957 in Milwaukee, WI to Gordon and Mary Lou (Raburn) Clausing. She was the second oldest of the five “G-Siblings” which include Brothers, Glenn (Judy) Clausing of Cary, NC, Gary (Maria) Clausing of Cedarburg, WI and Sisters, Gloria (Joe) Steib of Tequesta, FL and Gina (Jeff) Leider of Cedar Grove, WI. Nieces and Nephews include Bryan, Derek, and Alison Clausing, Jenna and Evan Clausing, Sara (Blake) Stelmacki, Joshua (Jenn) Steib, Carol Jean, Austin, and Cassidy Leider.

In a true testament of love, Gail was married to Michael Ganzlin for 44 years. They met at the grocery store in Milwaukee where they both worked, she was 17 and Michael was 21 and they were inseparable from the start. They had 2 daughters, Melissa Collier and Megan (Mickey) Finn and five Grandchildren, Mason and Charlotte Collier and Nolan, Parker and Magnolia Finn that lovingly called her Gamma at her request, after years of radiation treatments.

Always an artist at heart, Gail owned a custom clothing design company

(Sugar Magnolia) while raising her daughters and continuing her schooling. She went on to graduate with her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Florida Atlantic University in 1997 at 40 years old, something she was very proud of. Shortly after, she began her own successful graphic design company (2G Design) in Jupiter, FL which she had for 15 years. She was actively involved with the Cancer Alliance of Help and Hope which is dedicated to supporting Cancer patients in need of financial assistance, a cause very near and dear to her heart.

Creativity was her soul-keeper and included hobbies such as Watercolor painting, Sewing, Furniture making, Cooking and Photography. She also had a love of music, yoga, and the ocean as they brought her great peace amid her cancer battle. She was the author of 2 books including Gail Force, written to offer an encouraging memoir of hope for those also fighting metastatic breast cancer.

Gail was a true source of inspiration and grace to anyone that met her, especially those that witnessed her courageous strength throughout her cancer battle. Her body is now free from pain, but her loving spirit will be missed greatly by those that she leaves behind. Her earthly happy place was being surrounded by family and friends, but we know that she is in her eternal happy place with the Lord.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Jupiter Civic Center on Friday, April 23rd from 6:00-8:00pm. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Trustbridge Hospice of Palm Beach County or Cancer Alliance of Help and Hope.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **23**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Jupiter Civic Center
Jupiter, FL 33477

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Just came across this notice on Google looking for my old buddy and best friend back in the day Glenn ,Gail’s brother. Came across this notice. I’m very saddened. I knew Gail when she was teenager and Mike I knew we played basketball &softball a lot for the store we worked at. Glenn had four siblings and I knew them all. We hung around through our early college years.

I remember Mike and Gail came out to Los Angeles where my wife and I were living around 1981 or so and we went out to dinner with those guys and had a good time talking about our Past together and all the fun times that we had back then. I can empathize with Michael, I lost my wife Jean in 1996, at 39 years old. It always sad when someone passes that they knew and then that person was relatively young. Everybody expects to live to 90 years and I think short of that seems somewhat tragic. My best wishes and prayers to Mike and to Glenn, I still feel that even though time has passed, we’re still good friends.

Your Friend,
Paul Mente

paul mente - June 27, 2024 at 08:42 PM



“ Gail Elaine Ganzlin

October 22, 2023 at 10:17 AM

“ A Tribute to Gail Ganzlin
April, 2021

When the year 2000 was coming to a close Gail, like many other of her friends from the GNO (Girls Night Out) were thinking we were “on top of the world”. We survived Y2K and 9-11 had not happened, and we were young and healthy. Little did we know that we were soon going to face unprecedented challenges that would test all of us in different but painful ways. As I look back on that time, it seemed that Gail had the most difficult medical obstacles but she somehow maintained the greatest sense of calm and inner peace amongst all of us. Maybe it was her yoga practice that helped keep her so centered.

As we individually struggled through all of our medical challenges, Gail was always the one with the greatest poise and sense of purpose as she grappled with one issue after another. Her festive and creative side always dominating her decisions. Her enthusiasm for life was the foundation for the creation of GNO, which quickly morphed from “educational meetings” at the the Jupiter Medical Center to monthly dinners at our homes or wonderful restaurants scattered around northern Palm Beach County. And boy did we have fun and lots of laughs. Thanks to Jane and many others.

As the early 2000’s continued, many of us were blessed with the arrival of grandchildren and Gail was no exception. She thrived on being a grandmother and wanted desperately to be able to help both her daughters Melissa and Megan when they had children. Fortunately, she was able to be there to share in the lives of all five of her grandchildren. But her “rock” was clearly Michael, who strongly stood by her throughout this entire ordeal.

During this time Gail and Kathy flew out to stay with me on Bainbridge Island, Washington. That is when I truly felt Gail’s deep artistic connection to life and saw her creativity firsthand. We would visit galleries and she would see things in paintings that I never saw. She also shared her observations of the majestic landscape of the Olympic Peninsula treating both Kathy and I to her artistic view of the world. I will always savor those times we shared.

Gail left us too soon but I feel eternally grateful to have known her as long as I did and to have shared so many joyful and special times with her.

I wish I could be there today in person, but please know all of you are in my hearts and I send you lots of strength and support as we move forward.

*With love,
Winifred*

Michael Ganzlin - May 06, 2021 at 05:35 PM

MG

“ A tribute to my dear friend Gail
Departed March 27, 2021
April 23, 2021

It's hard to know where to begin, ...Gail and I first met in the Living with Breast Cancer group at JMC 21 years ago. We attended the meetings on a regular basis, then we decided to break away and begin our own group which became our GNO (Girl's Night Out) group. This is a group of 8 women who had breast cancer and we would meet on a monthly basis for dinner. This was a time we shared stories, laughter and more laughter and friendship. Gail was the one who would organize our monthly dinners, sometimes at restaurants and during season we began having dinner at each others homes. This was a very special time we all spent together. Yes, there was always good food and of course, chocolate. Debi was our master chocolatier.

My personal relationship with Gail blossomed as she introduced me to Yoga, Thai Chi and meditation. She was an avid Yogi and practiced consistently no matter how hard it was for her.

While I was working at the mall I had the opportunity to go to NY for a leasing conference. Well, my first thought was Gail would love it there.... I knew how she enjoyed traveling, museums and art and what better place than NYC. We also bought tickets to see the play Wicked. We flew in early to spend some time exploring the city before I had to go to work. Because it was in November it was really cold, the first day we were there it started snowing. Well, I have lived in Florida all my life so the first sight of snow, I'm there. We headed out that cold morning to Central Park where we were enjoying it until all of a sudden... down I went. And Yep the ambulance was waiting there in Central Park for....you know those Florida rookies in snow. Gail stayed with me in the ER until I sent her off so she would not miss Wicked. We had so looked forward to seeing the play.

The rest of the time in NYC Gail took advantage of going to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA (Museum of Modern Art), and any other museums she would walk to.

Another time we flew out to Bainbridge Island to visit with Winifred. We enjoyed a week driving around the island and seeing many interesting places. We talked often about going there again. What a beautiful place.

Fast forward, since I was no longer working we decided to meet up 3x a week to walk the beach from Marcinski to Juno Police Dept and sometimes around the lake and back. This was a special time where we shared what was going on with our girls, our grandkids (she was known as Gamma to them and they were the apple of her eye) we also discussed God and our beliefs and life in general. Gail was always the one to keep me moving, whether it be yoga, walking, lunches, dinners, crafting, or just sitting on the beach enjoying the moment. I'll never forget our trips together and how she was there looking at the good in life.

Gail never complained about her illness, she and Michael made some hard decisions and in the end she had to do what her heart was telling her. Michael was always by her side, caring for her, making her some incredible meals (so I've been told... hehe) she was the most positive, inspirational person I have had the honor of knowing and spending time with. I know she is looking down from Heaven and smiling as we gather to honor her, but I also know she would be very humbled. Gail You will be missed by many and until we meet again....Love you dear friend.

Kathy

Michael Ganzlin - May 06, 2021 at 04:52 PM

JS

“ *Mike and daughters!*

We were so sorry to hear of Gail's passing! She was a beautiful, "lady" inside and out. I know she will be sorely missed by you and the family. The first time we met Gail was before Gary and Maria's wedding when she had to do alterations on Gina's dress at our house. She handled it with grace and patience remaining so calm and jovial! I had such admiration for this 'lady' then and throughout the years we've seen and visited with you both at Gary and Maria's home. Our deepest sympathy to you. Our prayers will not only be for her as well as you and your families!

*John and Carol Szymanski
(Maria's Mom and Dad)*

John and Carol Szymanski - April 21, 2021 at 01:57 PM

JC

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Jane Caggiano - April 14, 2021 at 10:58 AM

MG

“ *3 files added to the album Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 13, 2021 at 08:30 PM

MG

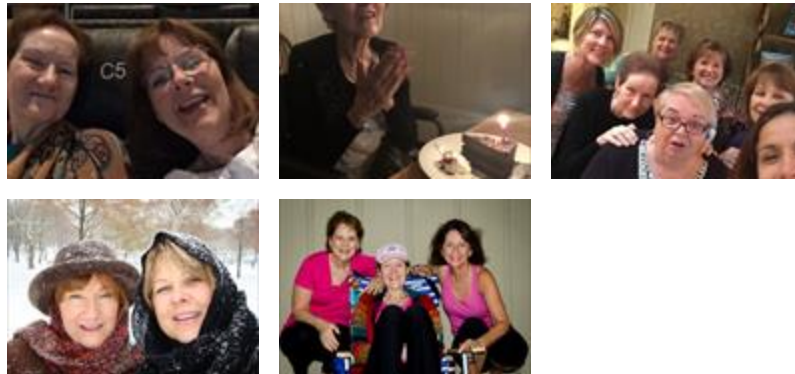
“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Ganzlin - April 13, 2021 at 08:27 PM

KJ

“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Kathy Jones - April 11, 2021 at 03:13 PM

DE

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Deb - April 10, 2021 at 10:08 PM

MB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Maureen Barber - April 08, 2021 at 09:46 AM

JB

“ Losing you has been so difficult. Your strength, devotion to family, your sense of humor and your incredible spirit was such a gift to me. We met through the breast cancer support group and I felt the love & support from you & our little groupies. I will never forget that night and the feeling of belonging to a special group of women. You taught me so much; how to handle this life long disease, how to share our journey with others to get them through, your undeniable strength and your focusing on others not yourself. I picture you free of pain and dancing with your loved ones who have gone before you. On eagles wings you flew into our Lords arms to brighten Heaven. Love you girlfriend forever!

Jackie Barber - April 06, 2021 at 08:58 PM

JB

“ Jackie Barber lit a candle in memory of Gail Elaine Ganzlin



Jackie Barber - April 06, 2021 at 08:45 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 06, 2021 at 04:05 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 06, 2021 at 04:04 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 06, 2021 at 04:04 PM

MG

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Michael Ganzlin - April 06, 2021 at 04:03 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 06, 2021 at 04:02 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 06, 2021 at 04:01 PM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 03, 2021 at 10:55 AM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 03, 2021 at 10:54 AM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Michael Ganzlin - April 03, 2021 at 10:53 AM

MG

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Ganzlin - April 03, 2021 at 10:52 AM

MG

“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Michael Ganzlin - April 03, 2021 at 10:49 AM

KJ

“ *Such a dear friend. We met at our breast cancer support group. From there, we shared many adventures. We walked the beach 3x a week and had some deep discussions, you introduced me to Yoga and Thi Chi. We had a fun trip to NY, even though I fell and broke my wrist. You stayed with me in the hospital until I made you leave so you wouldn't miss Wicked. You organized our GNO nights with our small group of survivors which kept us all connected. Your creativity and talent inspired me. I will never forget your positive, uplifting attitude toward life. You will be truly missed my friend. I know you are dancing in Heaven. One day we will meet again, until then may God keep you close.*

*Love you sweet friend
Kathy Jones*

Kathy Jones - April 02, 2021 at 07:13 AM

ME

“ Where do I begin? We were friends since Fruit Ranch days!! We had our babies together. We laughed so hard we cried. We shared secrets. You never judged anyone. Our adventures together San Francisco, Napa Valley, Carmel CA, New Orleans, Chicago. What fun we had. Thank You for being such a wonderful caring friend. Say hello to your mom and dad, I miss them too. I will remember you as the strongest most selfless person I had the pleasure to know and love. I will miss you sweet friend.

Mary Eichers - April 01, 2021 at 06:47 PM

MC



Melissa Collier - April 01, 2021 at 10:19 PM

MA

“ I will always think of you whenever I hear a Van Morrison or Jackson Browne song. Thank you for writing Gail Force and sharing your courageous cancer battle with the world. Grateful to have silly bowling league memories with you and Mary Eichers at the Red Carpet Lanes in Milwaukee and for being your guinea pig when you needed to practice applying eye makeup on others during your stint as a Tyrol consultant. Always full of grace and wry humor; you will be missed by all who knew you.

Until we meet again, may God keep you in the palm of His hand.

Martha Batson

Martha - April 01, 2021 at 03:26 PM