



Jane Gates-Capizzi

February 4, 1929 - February 25, 2017

E Jane Gates Capizzi was born February 4th, 1929 in Colchester, Vermont to Gordon and Louva Gates.

She grew up in Chelsea, Vermont; a beautiful, small village in Central Vermont, where she learned to ski, skate, tap dance and play the piano. Her dad taught her to fish and hunt at an early age. Time was free to roam & play in the hills, and swim & fish in the brooks. She also joined the Epworth League, which gave her the basis for a lifetime of active participation in affairs of the church. She was a devout and practicing Congregationalist, being a member of churches in Jeffersonville VT, and Corvallis OR, and was a retired President of the Congregational Women's Fellowship. She also enjoyed summer vacations at Teel-a-wooket, a church camp in Roxbury VT.

She left Chelsea at the end of her junior year to enroll at Burlington High School, as her father became the head of the Dairy Department at the University of Vermont (UVM). She attended & graduated from University of Vermont as a Clothing & Textiles Major with an elective in modern art in 1950. During her time at University she learned to play the pipe organ in The Ira Allen Chapel. She was a proud member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority, and would later serve as president of the Oregon Alumnae Club.

Upon graduation, Jane accepted a position as a 4-H extension agent in Barnstable Massachusetts, where she enjoyed being in sync with the tides and seasons of a seaside village, also playing the pipe organ in the local

church. At a convention in Colorado she was recruited for the same position in Douglas County Oregon, and 1953 found her driving westward, with her 15-yr old brother Steve riding shotgun. It was overwhelming at the time to represent a county larger than the state of Connecticut. Roseburg had a rough logging atmosphere and the North Umpqua River. Here Jane learned to fly and fly fishing, falling in love with the Umpqua River valley.

Jane met her future husband, Joe Capizzi, an entomologist, at 4-H camp, where he taught as the Bug Man. They married in September of 1958 and honeymooned by going on a freighter across the Atlantic and then on a trek around the world.

Returning to the United States they settled in Salem OR, Joe resumed his profession as an entomologist, and Jane became a mother to a son and daughter, Jeffrey and Elizabeth. Soon it was off to Yakima WA where they acquired many lifelong friends.

Settled in Corvallis in 1965, Jane joined the OSU flying club and the 99s International Organization of Women Pilots. She judged 4-H exhibits at fairs and grange contests for years with a focus on food and textiles. She took lessons in ceramics, painting, belly dancing, and tap dancing at the Corvallis Art Center. She served as a 4-H leader and later as coordinator for the OSU state 4-H International Foreign Youth Exchange program, helping top 4-H'ers to represent the USA in foreign countries and helped incoming foreign youth representatives into 4-H Host Families 1980-82, Jane was elected Senior President of The Isaac Walton League of America and visited chapters throughout Oregon, attending national meetings. 1982 found Jane appointed to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Game Commission by Governor Atiyeh. The Commission consumed Jane's time and attention for eight years, and was the first lady commissioner to complete two full terms.

She served in various leadership roles in the Congregational Church and Home Economics Association. She was extremely proud of family's ancestral contribution to Vermont and the United States, and was Honorary Regent of

the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In the 1990s, Jane and Joe enjoyed retirement and traveled extensively, before Joe's death in 2001. Jane loved to spend time in Vermont with family, where she had built a hilltop cabin on the old family farm facing Mt Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak. She loved to sit on the deck of her cabin and watch the mountain change color at sunset. Thunder storms were a special thing. In 2005 Bob Burgess moved from Vermont to partner with Jane, her Chelsea High School Sweetheart.

Some of her other successes were representing UVM at the installation of the new President of Portland State University with UVM being the fifth oldest university present. The UVM basketball team sent her a letter of praise for the delicious cookies she baked to support the team when they played OSU. She was an active participant and contributor to the associations of UVM.

Hunting and fishing were her passion. No child was too small to teach to fish. She particularly enjoyed fishing the coast rivers, especially the North Umpqua, sliding into Zane Grey's waders when the water got cold.

Jane leaves behind: her sweetheart Bob, her son Jeffrey and his family Susan Douglas (wife) and Marina Capizzi & Darius Capizzi (children), her daughter Elizabeth and partner Chip Bates, her sisters' Sue Perry of Cambridge VT and Mary Lou Williamson of Springhill FL, and her brother Steve Gates of Sealy TX.

A memorial service will be held at 2 PM on March 12th at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Notes & Remembrances may be sent to McHenry Funeral Home and they will be forwarded to the family.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 12. 2:00 PM (PT)

First Congregational Church of Christ
4515 West Hills Rd
Corvallis, OR 97330

Tribute Wall

HM

“ Hello family and friends of Jane Gates Capizzi,
I did not know her but believe that she lived at the Gates farm in
Chelsea VT which now belongs to my daughter. My husband
bought it 35 +/- years ago so that he could go up there to fly fish in
the area. I have an old photo of a child about 10-12 on skis that
was left in the house. It could be Jane. We had such wonderful
times staying in the house, fishing (my husband) and mountain
climbing (me and my daughter plus a friend.) Sadly she has to sell
the property as she lives in CA and can't get to VT. Funny thing, I
live in West Barnstable MA where I think Jane worked with 4H. So
sorry i never knew her.

Havana Moss
hbm45351@gmail.com

Havana Moss - August 18, 2023 at 03:47 PM

MM

“ Elizabeth,

Doubt this will reach you but this is Marygrace Maresh----long ago
brief friend from OSU. Every so often I think about you and wonder
what you're up to. Wish we would have kept in touch. Sorry about
your mom:(If you do get this, my email is mgmaresh@nwlinc.com.
I'd love to hear from you!

Marygrace

Marygrace Maresh - May 27, 2021 at 08:33 PM

P4

“ Learning of Jane's dedicated work in 4-H, we know her legacy will continue to impact our youth. The Oregon 4-H Foundation extends our condolences to Jane's family and friends. We will work hard to continue the traditions that she influenced over her lifetime with spirit and passion.

Paul Carey, Ex. Dir. Oregon 4-H - March 10, 2017 at 06:19 PM

LK

“ Jeff, Elizabeth and Jane's extended family and friends, Please accept our condolences with you Mom's passing. I will always remember her as a free and open spirit. We have a little place in Poultney, VT and we're going there tonight with skiing at Killington tomorrow. I will be sure to send up a special remembrance of Jane when we're at the top. Love and warm thoughts during this time. Lynn (Pierwsza - Babe and Lou's youngest daughter) and Steve Kirby.

Lynn Kirby - March 09, 2017 at 12:04 PM

LL

“ *Wish I could be there with you.*

Hope to encourage you with this special verse.

1Thessalonians 4:13-15

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep,

or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that

Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring

with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the

Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive,

Who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Love you so,

Blessings,

Linnie and family

St. Albans, Vt.

Linda Lahaie - March 07, 2017 at 01:09 PM