



## Elaine Frances Howard

July 22, 1947 - August 5, 2020

Elaine Howard, of Butte, Montana, passed away Wednesday, August 5, 2020. She was born July 22, 1947 in Great Falls, Montana. Following her high school graduation in 1965, she attended University of Montana and earned her B.A. degree in Anthropology and later did graduate studies in Anthropology.

Professional life encompassed her love of learning and adventure. She started out as a field archeologist for USFS, GCM Services, and Historical Research Associates, then continued as a cultural resource coordinator for Montana Power and later on became their computer educator coordinator. After retirement Elaine began her own web design business, "Howard Consulting", and continued until the time of her death.

She used her professional talents at various times to contribute to her active community life as an editor of Archeology in Montana, Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Butte Schools Retired Senior Volunteer Program and many other interests.

Elaine was preceded by the death of her father, Dr. Lester F. Howard, her mother, Louise Howard and brother, Dr. Raymond (Molly) Howard. She is survived by her brother, Les (Linda) Howard and sister Gayle (Lance) Fowler and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Elaine will remind us of all the joy that comes in friendships, and in serving her community. She maintained close relationships and connections with friends and family, sharing her homemade huckleberry-raspberry jams, fudge, dilly

beans and basil pesto.

Due to COVID-19 a small private family service will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ It is June 2022. I've just discovered that Laney passed in 2020. She came to mind vividly when I recently made my annual trek to Montana where I lived for over a decade, and then again after I returned home here to PA. So, I Googled her.

*We worked together at U of M's Social Work Department on the administrative support staff in the mid-1970s.*

*I learned how to my make and bake my first ever pie, an apple pie from scratch under Laney's tutelage. She gifted me (and others) regularly with her spectacular homemade bread and granola. She was the first person who took me to brunch as a birthday gift. She gave me multiple arrowheads that she found after she began working for MT Power as an archaeologist. (I can say that now, right?)*

*With Laney I took my first trip to observe the salmon run at Glacier Park. We cross- country skied together more than a few wonderful times. I made many visits to her little trailer on the Grant Creek Ranch when the drive there and back was wide open with pretty much zero development.*

*I remember one morning she didn't show up for work, which was totally uncharacteristic of Laney, indeed, rare. A colleague was nabbed to drive out to her little home, and he found her in a feverish haze, scarlet with fever. She had scarlet fever!. When I visited her later, I said something that made her laugh so hard she tipped over in her rocking chair. I wrote a poem for her--"Rocking Chair Gone Awry"*

*Laney was brave, fearless, loving...and so steadfast. We lost touched over the years but she remained and remains always a very bright light in my memories of Montana. Rest in peace, beautiful, Laney. I'm so grateful I knew you in this world.*

*Joanne Pinaire*

joanne pinaire - June 28, 2022 at 06:59 PM

GH

“ I met Laney in Missoula MT in the early 70's through my husband Jeff. We were all attending the University of Montana and we were an incredible group of friends, artists and musicians. Laney attending our wedding in the summer of 1975 and I have some lovely photos of her and I can truthfully say that here beautiful smile never changed. I am saddened by just now finding out about her death now that it is December. My thoughts are with the family and their loss.

Germaine Haberman

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Germaine Haberman - December 13, 2020 at 04:52 PM

SG

“ I am sorry to hear that Elaine has passed. She and I worked together in the mid 1970s as archeologists for the Forest Service. Our boss at that time, Milo McLeod told me she had died. I remember when she lived in a cabin, on the Grant Creek Ranch out of Missoula before it became a massive subdivision. We hiked all over that ranch. And I visited her in her home outside of Butte, another very private and quiet place. Decades passed and we fell out of touch but reconnected about a year or two ago. She caught me up on all that had gone on in her life... and I did the same. I just remember her as a very giving and thoughtful person, quiet but also funny. I am sad she is gone.

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susan giannettino - September 29, 2020 at 01:55 PM

JF

“ I am thankful for the times recently when we were able to visit Aunt Elaine. She was always so cheerful and thankful to see us even as she struggled to get around her apartment in Butte where she kept up her work and continued recovering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Aunt Elaine would address emails by calling us "dear ones" and always remembered my birthday. Ever since I can remember I loved getting birthday or Christmas presents from Aunt Elaine. One year when I was a young boy she gave me a Montana Centennial gold plated coin that I thought was "pirates' gold!" Another year she sent me a fossil of a fish perfectly preserved. And of course I remember arrowheads and the interest in and respect for Native American culture that she gave me.

When I was a student at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana I received a small heavy package one day. It was packed full of her special holiday fudge. Another time, when my family was living in the Middle East, we received another small, heavy package from her that, this time, contained a jar of her signature homemade raspberry- huckleberry jam which somehow made it all the way through the sketchy postal system and costing \$15 USD to send to us. What a treat!

We celebrate Aunt Elaine's life with these memories and grieve her passing.

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**Jeremy Fowler** - August 31, 2020 at 11:22 PM

JS

“ I had the great experience to work with Elaine at Montana Power Company. Our professional collaborations were always directed to produce the most professional products possible. Also in those, came the extra pleasure of our friendship. I am very sad to read of her passing.

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**James Shive** - August 31, 2020 at 01:08 PM

LW

“ I am so sorry for the loss of Elaine. Our professional and personal lives crossed paths for decades. She both were frequent audience members at the Silver Dollar when good music was featured. She worked at the Power Company when I had a business that supplied temporary workers. She talked with us about our website at the BSB Archives. Most significantly for both of us, we put together and hung an exhibit of Paul Anderson's photographs. He was a common and very special friend to us. He too left us way too soon. I will remember Elaine as a soft-spoken and strong woman. She will be missed.

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**Lee Whitney** - August 30, 2020 at 02:42 PM

KP

“ I met Lainey years ago in Missoula, and was delighted to be reacquainted with her when we moved to Butte in 1981 (after living out of state for a few years). She was such a sweet, kind and interesting person. I will always remember her compassion toward animals. She is the only person I've met who cared for and loved an “austistic” dog. May her sweet soul Rest In Peace.

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**Kathy Paterni** - August 29, 2020 at 07:13 PM

CW

“ I am so sorry about Elaine. We were both members of Homer Club, Montana's oldest women's book club. And we all found her to be a delightful and caring member, a real asset to our organization. She will be greatly missed.

*Carol Wheeler*

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**Carol Wheeler** - August 29, 2020 at 01:03 PM

BC

“ I'm so sorry about Elaine. I met her a few years back and always found her to be so caring and thoughtful. My thoughts and prayers for her family.

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**Barb Collins** - August 28, 2020 at 10:05 PM