



Elisabeth Louise Hagen

February 12, 1953 - March 10, 2016

Elisabeth Louise Hagen, well known child development activist in Southern Utah, passed away peacefully on March 10, 2016 in her home in Cedar City, Utah, surrounded by her family after a two year battle with cancer at the age of 63.

Elisabeth was a lifelong advocate for Utah's children. For 21 years she worked for the Utah Office of Child Care as director of Five County Child Care Resource and Referral, where she worked tirelessly to educate and train child care providers throughout Southern Utah. A sought after lecturer and teacher, she presented at Early Childhood Conferences throughout Utah and for 14 years was an instructor at Southern Utah University. She is the author of two books of kindergarten programs used throughout Utah.

Her love for children will be remembered by her staff, her students, her child care providers, many former children from the preschool she ran from her home and nursery classes, and most importantly her beloved children and grandchildren. Lis was a champion of children, always fighting to improve their world and protect their childhood.

Elisabeth was born February 12, 1953 in North Ogden, Utah to Louis and Lucille Hagen. She attended Weber High School and Weber State College where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Child Development. She received a Master's degree in Education from Utah State University.

In 1978, she moved from Northern Utah to Cedar City. Besides her

professional activities here, she performed at and ran the “Juggling School” at the Utah Shakespeare Festival’s Greenshow for many years as well as many Gifted and Talented Summer camps.

She was an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast. In 2005 she and her cousin, Anne, hiked the 192 miles from one coast of England to the other. She has made the climb to the top of Angel’s Landing in Zion National Park more times than can be counted, often with a cold pack full of strawberries and whipping cream.

She is survived by her three children, Nathan (Melanie) Barker, Samuel (Jamie) Barker, Erin (Sidney) Groutage, her five grandchildren, three of her brothers, Russel (Karen) Hagen, Richard Hagen, Jerold (Dolores) Hagen, numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by both of her parents and her eldest brother Donald (Jan) Hagen.

The family would like to invite friends and family to a memorial service honoring her life on March 19th at Stone Haven Event Center, 647 S. Cross Hollow Rd. Cedar City, UT. Friends may call from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. The memorial service will begin at 12:00 noon. The Interment will take place at a later date in the Ben Lomond Cemetery in North Ogden, UT.

Friends and family are invited to share condolences online at www.serenitystg.com. In lieu of flowers, Lis would be honored to have those efforts be put towards spending some extra time reading with a child.

Tribute Wall

KE

“ I worked as a member of Lis's team at CCR&R for about three years. The first week that I worked for her (I thought I had been hired to be a secretary of sorts) she had us sewing pillow cases to put on small pillows to give out to providers at a conference. I had never really sewn before in my life. From that first moment on it was never a dull moment. I planted grass in cups that were used for troll hair, I played in a water table with real fish swimming around, and I learned how to juggle.

I learned so much from her about child care but also about being a resilient person. Lis knew how to work hard and have a fun time. I will always treasure the times that I had with Lis. This last year I have been in the process of applying to graduate school to become an Occupational Therapist. Lis was one of the people that wrote a letter of recommendation for me. The same day that I learned that Lis had passed away was the day that I learned that I had not made it into the program. I was upset and really sad that I wouldn't be able to tell Lis that I had made it because I had been excited to reach my full potential as she had often encouraged me to do. As I sat crying over my double loss I remembered Lis had given me a book of quotes by Mr. Fred Rogers, so to honor Lis I spent some time reading this book. I came across this quote which describes Lis:

"When I was a boy (younger) I used to think that strong meant having big muscles, great physical power; but the longer I live, the more I realize that real strength has much more to do with what is not seen. Real strength has to do with helping others."

Lis I still intend to work to get my degree so that I too may become as strong as you were by helping others. I am glad to know that there is one more angel watching out for all of her family and friends from heaven. Thank you for all that you taught me. Thank you to her family for sharing her with me. I am a much better person for knowing her.

Love Kelly Ensign

Kelly Ensign - March 30, 2016 at 10:09 AM



“ *Lis made me a better mom! I loved working with her and learning about kids from her. I loved to see her at church and remember all those good times at CCR&R. I will miss her! Love and prayers to you all you family members who I also love!*

Daneene Taylor - March 18, 2016 at 06:19 PM

BB

“ We have lost one of our greatest supporters of young children. Lis was a colleague and a friend of mine. The first day I met her, she told me she wanted my job. I told her I knew I had the best job in town but I was not ready to give it up. She went on to find several other jobs that turned out to benefit children as much or more than mine did. She taught young children but more importantly she taught those who were teaching young children.

I have never met anyone with more energy, creativity and enthusiasm than Liz. What ever she did, she gave 100%. (Her curriculum ideas were wonderful.)

When Lis told me she had cancer, my heart dropped. It was one of those cancers where your odds of beating it are very low. However, if anyone could do it, Lis could. And she did for 2 years. Two extra years to meet new grandchildren and watch and care for the ones she had. How I wish it could have been longer. I am sure her mind is still full of great and creative ideas for children. Are there children in heaven? If there are, that is where she is today- surrounded by children.

One thing that Lis told me was to always buy a cup of lemonade from a child's lemonad stand. So I ask that we all buy that cup of lemonade this summer and drink to Lis.

You will be missed Lis but I will always remember your love of children and the many things I learned from you. Oh, one more thing. I am really sorry Sam broke his arm in my Preschool.

“Miss” Bonnie

Bonnie kay Bishop - March 18, 2016 at 01:04 PM

JS

“ I worked with Lis for over 20 years and was inspired by her passion and love for all things "children". Eight years ago when I first became a Grandma she welcomed me to the "Grandma's Club" and gave me a wonderful "Folkmanis puppet (three blind mice) which I cherish to this day and my grandchildren love. Even though I don't work in the child development arena, she inspired me to read and purchase some great children's literature. I have read the book, *Enemy Pie*, a zillion times and have used it countless times to teach young children as well as teenagers. Thanks, Lis! I admired her expertise and often sought her advice and opinions on child development. She was a great friend to me. I will miss her very much!

Jo Seegmiller

Jo Seegmiller - March 18, 2016 at 12:31 PM

RR

“ Dear Russ, Richard, and Jerry,

You probably won't remember me, but "Betty Lou" and I were dear friends as young children when my family (parents: Jay and Leona Ricks) lived just across the street from your parents on 1700 North in North Ogden between about 1959 to 1963.

"Betty" was her name then and mine was "Rosie." She and I spent our summers climbing on and swinging from your old apricot tree, "fishing" for moss in the quiet little ditch between your house and Colts'; looking for buried treasure in the field south of your home, picking barely pink tomatoes from the garden for your dad, and drinking your mom's homemade and bottled rootbeer.

We drove with your mother in her Volkswagen car to visit her parents in Salt Lake City, and she bought us See's Candy suckers as treats. I've thought of Betty's roll top desk many times over the years, and how organized she was, and her love of Dr. Seuss' and "The Hardy Boys" books. We dressed up and put on Christmas plays for my family and played marbles at home and school. Betty's long hair had beautiful ringlets; her laugh was wonderful and unique; and she is the only person I've ever known who shared a birthday with Abraham Lincoln.

After my family moved away, we only saw or talked with each other infrequently over the years, but I have certainly never forgotten her or the special and happy part she played in my youth.

My condolences for your loss, but my joy at your knowledge of the plan of happiness and that you will see your dear little sister again.

Rosanne Ricks

Rosanne Ricks - March 17, 2016 at 01:57 PM

EG

“ My dear Lis,

You will always be in my heart. Every time I read "How to Babysit a Grandma", I will think of you. I will think of your love for children, and your passion for childhood. You were my friend, my teacher and my mentor. I will never forget your love and dedication, our conversations in the car, and our shared mission to make this world a little better for our little ones. Love you Lis! Till we meet again!

Encarni

Encarni Gallardo - March 17, 2016 at 11:37 AM

LH

“ *Lis made a difference in the life of so many children. Our family was blessed by her presence in our lives. I always marveled at her enthusiasm and the way she radiated joy. What a gifted teacher she was! We give her family our sympathy and gratitude for sharing their precious mother with others.*

Lee and Giana Hulet - March 17, 2016 at 09:49 AM

DS

“ *May the "hearer of prayer" continue to strengthen your family during this most difficult time. The days ahead will get easier, as those close to you provide the support and encouragement you need to stay strong. Share your memories they will be a source of comfort that can help you and your family to cope and grant you peace.*

Desiree Sigler - March 17, 2016 at 05:53 AM

TB

“ Liz, thanks for sharing your light and life with so many. You made everyone feel special and important. Thank you for that. See you in heaven.

Tad Brinkerhoff - March 16, 2016 at 06:40 PM

ZG

“ I haven't known Lis that long and my interactions with her were few and far between for most of the time we have known each other. But even with that, she has always been very generous and accepting of me even though we didn't have that much in common. But one thing we did have in common was our love for Erin, Sid and Grayson. As I watched her with Grayson I gained a new respect for her and the love she showed to everyone. Having lost my mom to cancer, I thought I would have something to say to her family but I don't other than to send my condolences.

Zach Groutage - March 16, 2016 at 09:04 AM

BJ

“ Lis was a treasure!! I enjoyed so much our visits at the salon. Weather it was a happy moment of family or grand children, tears of joy or heart ache, she always made the most of any situation 😊 My heart is so sad for you sweet kids and darling grandchildren . Our family has kept you in our thoughts and prayers. Your mother was such an inspiring fun woman! My memories of Lis are happy, fun but yet to short. Thank you for sharing. I love you guys💕💕

bonnie jones - March 15, 2016 at 10:43 PM

JR

“ Sending my deepest sympathies to Lis' family. She was truly a wonderful person, and I am so thankful that we were able to spend some time with her and Rich. May she rest in heaven.



Janice Retz - March 15, 2016 at 09:03 PM

BB

“ Oh Lis, how I miss you. I will miss your laugh and your joyful whistling. I have so many memories of you. I remember the treasure hunts you set up for us kids, the sleepovers at your house, helping you in your preschool and of course the immense amount of love you showed me. I will always cherish the time I spent with you at Five County. I remember one day we decided to do a pot luck lunch at work and you brought a crock pot full of amazing soup. People begged for the recipe and you said it was a family secret and wouldn't give it up. Later in the day you shared your secret.....you said "the secret to your soup was to go get your crock pot, put it in the car, drive to the Garden House and ask them to fill it up with their best soup of the day!" And then you laughed and laughed and laughed. You had gotten so busy that you had forgotten to make anything so you went with plan B. I will miss your humor. Nate, Sam and Erin I want you to know how much I love your mom. She had a huge influence on my life. There wasn't a better person than Lis. I love you all.

All my love,
Barb

Barbara Behling - March 15, 2016 at 04:06 PM

“ My Favorite Sister, Lis

*I remember the day she came down to earth,
As dad drove in the driveway and proclaimed her birth,
He proudly announced, "we've got a girl",
After four boys, she was the "Pearl".*

*She looked so small then, who would ever have known,
that great things would happen, once she was grown,
I taught her a few things, like how to pick pickles,
once I found out she would work for a few nickles.*

*She went all through school to prepare her to teach,
and soon found her passion, was helping kid's reach,
for room to develop with safety and care,
new vista's to conquer, new experiences to share.*

*How do you measure the good she has done,
the changes in lives as children have fun.
To give them their space as they try out new things,
to use their imaginations and spread out their wings.*

*Somehow she found time to help all those in need,
Her home was a haven for many indeed.
The food that she cooked from the things on her shelf,
was well worth the wait and was legend itself.*

*So Sis I salute you, as you flourished and grew,
You helped and inspired so many you knew.
You left this world better than the one you came in,
With no better example than Nate, Sam and Erin.*

*My life has been blessed by all we have shared,
by your kindness and wisdom and all you have cared.
Our last time together was an exceptional day,
As we took the Ferry and golf cart, to explore "Put-N-Bay".*

*You've gone on ahead, to show me the way,
To make sure I get there, and don't go astray.
I miss you so much, but I don't know just when,
We will both share a grave-site, under "Old Ben".*

*I love you Sis.
Richard L. Hagen*

Richard L. Hagen - March 15, 2016 at 02:59 PM

GZ

Lis was a wonderful co-worker to have been associated with here at the Five County Association of Governments.

My fondest memories of her are the activities outside the normal 9-5 office routine. The summer party at the "cabin" up on the mountain with the PVC pipe blow guns with marshmallows as ammo comes to mind. Only Lis would think of ways for staff to target other staff in a "friendly" way.

She was the one person who I never minded when I got a panicked cell phone call from her on an early Saturday morning when she was getting a child care training presentation going on the conference room projector. Something would not be working correctly so I would methodically visualize each step with her in my mind as she followed my directions. As soon as the projector or computer in the conference room worked she'd simply and very quickly say "Bye!". Never a thanks or anything on that call. But I knew she was thankful and she always remembered me a little later each time with a thoughtful thank you treat (candy, etc.) on my desk when I arrived the following Monday.

Her sense of humor was inspirational to all of us that had the pleasure to work with Lis. I am so thankful that she stopped in here a short time ago and I was able to give her a hug. I am truly going to miss Lis. My wife MaryAnn and I extend our sincere condolences Lis's family.

*Gary Zabriskie
Deputy Director
Five County Association of Governments*

Gary Zabriskie - March 18, 2016 at 01:30 PM

CD

It's hard to believe she's gone from us! I add my love and appreciation to what's been written by others who were so blessed by what she gave to the Early Childhood field. She truly was a gift and my life has been so blessed by her passion for children and childhood. Thanks, Lis! I'll be looking for you in heaven wherever I see a group of happy little children! The nature trips there will be wonderful!

Camille Dowler

Early Childhood educator, New Mexico

Camille Dowler - March 19, 2016 at 12:02 PM