



Gesine Crandall

August 7, 1937 - February 4, 2022

Gesine Crandall passed away peacefully at home in St. George, Utah on February 4, 2022. She was 84.

Gesine exhibited quite a determined spirit in everything she did. This included making a life in Aspen, Colorado for nearly 50 years. She shared her gift for design as informal architectural assistant to Tom Benton in the design and building of the family home on Willoughby Way. With a bad spine from childhood on, she continuously worked on strengthening her body, especially through diligent Pilates practice. As a result, she was able to do the physical activities she loved until just a few years ago. Two favorite memories are hiking Mt. Sopris on her 70th birthday and playing USTA National Mother-Daughter tennis tournaments with her daughter Kristine.

Her biggest accomplishment was using an innate financial sensibility to help, as a founding board member and the treasurer, with the capital campaign and building of the Aspen Animal Shelter. In looking back over her life, Gesine said that “it was rich in experience, whether good or bad, always keeping me learning.”

That life experience cut across a wide spectrum, beginning with World War II followed by the establishment of Communist East Germany where she grew up, in Mühlhausen, Thüringen. She only had an eighth-grade education

because she refused to join the Communist Youth Party. At age 18 she fled to West Germany, where she lived in Braunschweig and Stuttgart, working for the Deutsche Bank. She came to the United States in 1961 and, as she said, “for the first time, I could be myself,” feeling a societal, cultural kinship. After a year with relatives in Rockford, Illinois, she drove West in her gangster Buick, spending a winter working at the Rustler Lodge in Alta, Utah. She heard that Aspen was a lovely place to be in the summer, with its summer music festival. Within her first two months there, she met Dr. Jack Crandall while working at the Golden Horn restaurant, and they were married a few months later. They made a balanced team — he the laid back one and she the Type-A doer (this was the secret of their marriage).

A love of nature provided a body-mind-soul touchstone throughout Gesine’s life. She maximized her passion for hiking both around Aspen and the redrock desert in southwest Utah, moving there full-time in 2010. Favorite places in the St. George area were trails in Snow Canyon State Park, the Santa Clara River Reserve, and the ravines below Zen Ridge near where she lived.

Immediate family that survive her are daughter Kristine Crandall, her beloved feral-turned-indoor kitty, Bigbee (St. George), and her sister, Frauke, niece Agnes and family (Leipzig Germany).

There will be no formal memorial service. To leave reflections and condolences, please visit <https://www.serenitystg.com>. In lieu of flowers, donations in Gesine’s memory can be made to the Friends of the Aspen Animal Shelter, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, or Switchpoint Community Resource Center in St. George.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ Dear Kristine, Your mom was a champion to all the furry faces she loved. Her Christmas cookies were the best, and her conversations were so rich. I miss your dad and hope your abundant memories of good times with both your folks are a source of comfort. Be in touch. We're still here and would love to see you when you come through Grand Junction. Love to you. Margie Wilson and Frank Cooley

Margie Wilson - February 15, 2022 at 08:08 PM

RL

“ Hello Christina, I am so very sorry for your loss. Your mom was a remarkable lady, and I am both fortunate and grateful to have called her 'friend'. I lost your phone number, and I am sorry for losing contact with you. Please forward your contact information, and let me know if/when you will visit Aspen! Your mom was a champion, may she Rest In Peace, Love and Friendship, Bob Langley and Family

Robert A Langley - February 13, 2022 at 04:36 PM

LS

“ Reading through the obits today and I found that your mother had passed. Living here in the St George area, I am saddened that I didn't meet your mother. I lived in the Roaring Fork Valley for 47 years and moved to the Green Springs area full time 4 years ago. I never knew your mother but your father was my doctor in Aspen. Your father delivered my daughter in 1971 on his birthday, September 22.
My condolences on the loss of your parents.

Linda Stoltzfus
alandlinda12@gmail.com

Linda Stoltzfus - February 11, 2022 at 12:21 PM

DK

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I am thankful that I was able to get to know Gesine. Thanks for making that possible.* ”

Dennis Kay - February 09, 2022 at 05:03 PM