



## Elaine Bechant

July 25, 1949 - November 29, 2020

Elaine Elorza Bechant, age 71, passed away peacefully November 29, 2020 following a long battle with cancer. She was born July 25, 1949 in Brooklyn, New York to Joseph and Dorothy Elorza. Elaine had a passion for cooking. She possessed a B.S. in Nutrition, which she obtained from Buffalo University. She took great pride in her dishes and basked in the joy of tantalizing the palettes of her family and friends. She loved to entertain and made her food and drinks the highlight of many events. Elaine's greatest contribution has been her fierce dedication to the lives of people with developmental disabilities. Elaine created a parent advocacy and support group that was instrumental in lobbying state and local agencies to provide services beyond school age for young adults with disabilities. She was a tireless advocate for all people with developmental disabilities to increase their quality of life and their acceptance within the community. Elaine is survived by her daughter, Meredith (John) Siefert; her son, Ross; their father, Neal; her grandchildren; and a multitude of wonderful, caring friends. All of these she loved and touched deeply. A celebration of her life will be held Summer 2021. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the ML4 Foundation online at [ml4.org](http://ml4.org). SCHOEDINGER NORTHEAST is honored to serve her family.

# Comments

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“ Elaine moved in literally across the street from me on Venetian Way, and it didn't take long for us to become fast friends. The first time I saw her she was struggling mightily to mow her front yard so I crossed the street and offered to help, she said no thanks it was good exercise. She was a smart, lovely and cultured woman. She was devoted to Ross and was tireless in his care. We would share a glass of wine often and she would council me on the women in my life and the mistakes I was making. Now and then she would cook a wonderful dinner for us, I would buy the wine. We could talk about anything and I was always impressed with her steadfastness in dealing with the agencies involved with Ross' care, with her world view and political activism. She really cared about people. I became worried about her when I didn't hear from her and my calls went unanswered late last fall. Even though I moved to Florida in 2016 we stayed in touch and I feared the worse. I miss our phone conversations and her texts. They were pages long, pointed and sometimes funny. I think about her often and do miss her. Rest in peace Elaine

Michael Bisutti - April 18 at 12:44 PM

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“ Rest In Peace Elaine. I wanted to give you holiday lights this season, but was too late. My heart is broken for your family. Hope Ross and animals are being cared for. You were always a pleasure. Angel Lighting

kristina angeletti - December 16, 2020 at 02:31 PM

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“ To Elaine's family: I can still see Elaine and Ross in the front row of many of the Gahanna Community Theatre musicals. Always a smile, always a kind word. Loved to see her walking the dogs. Thank you for all you did for those in the DD community. Elaine, you will be missed. My deepest sympathies to all of you.

Kathie Skamfer - December 03, 2020 at 05:20 PM

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“ I went to a movie called the Lion King  
With Ms Elaine and Ross  
Along with my 2 teachers  
And I'm sorry for the loss of Ms Elaine

Kristin Skamfer - December 03, 2020 at 05:16 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Elaine's passing. I enjoyed many "foodie" conversations with her, and was Ross's massage therapist. Elaine was a tireless advocate for Ross and and she will be missed. I'm sure she is at peace. My prayers are with your family.  
Lisa Adams

**Lisa Adams** - December 03, 2020 at 12:47 PM

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“ Elaine's Family,  
So Sorry to hear of Elaine's passing. She was such an advocate for Ross and other special needs children. My son Eric being one of them. I worked with Elaine as part of the FAAC Group. Families Advocating For Adult Children. We attended many state and county meetings together. Her efforts were greatly appreciated by many. Elaine loved her whole family and was so devoted to Ross.

Lynn Russell  
Eric Case

**Lynn Russell** - December 01, 2020 at 09:04 PM

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“ Dear Neal and family.

Was so saddened to learn of Elaine's passing. She was very loving and kind person and will be missed by many. It brought back warm memories of sitting next to you, Elaine, and Ross at Mass at St. Matthews. Please know that I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

**Ken Snyder** - December 01, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ Dear Neal and family,

I was deeply saddened to learn of Elaine's death. I have been flooded with memories made with Elaine and Ross. My daughter Katy and Ross had known each other and been in programming together since they were one year old. Elaine and I would get together frequently with our children - having dinner at Elaine's house or even holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmases at mine. Elaine was a great mother and a kind and loving friend. I will miss her.

**Susan Coffman** - December 02, 2020 at 04:21 AM



“ Elaine was a lovely neighbor. An angel came and called her name. and took her by the hand; The angel said her place was ready; In heaven far above; And that she'd have to leave behind all those she dearly loved. But when she walked through heaven's gates, she felt so much at home, for God looked down, smiled at her, and said, "Welcome home". She's not far, for every time we think of her, she's still in our heart. May she rest in the loving arms of Jesus.

**Terry Magyar** - December 04, 2020 at 06:26 PM