



Sally L. Occhialino

January 6, 1945 - January 16, 2015

Sally L. Occhialino, age 70, an Albuquerque resident since 1977, died on January 16, 2015 at her home with her family after battling cancer. Born on January 6, 1945, Sally was the daughter of Joseph and Hazel La Forte. Sally is survived by her husband, Mario “Ted” Occhialino of Albuquerque; her children, Lisabeth Occhialino and husband Bruce Stimpson of Leesburg, VA, Anne Noel Occhialino and husband Jonathan Gannon of Silver Spring, MD, and Edward Occhialino and wife Amy of Portland, OR; her beloved brother, William La Forte and wife Ann of Rochester, NY; and her father, Joseph of Juno Beach, FL. Treasured grandchildren are Charlie and Sally Rose Stimpson, Kate and Nora Gannon, and twins, Mario and Dante Occhialino. Sally graduated from Poughkeepsie (NY) High School and from Mount Holyoke College, where she majored in philosophy and studied ancient Greek culture and language. While at Mount Holyoke, she met classmates Ellen Grove Petrone and Judy Rose Scheibe who became dear, life-long friends. After marrying Ted, a law professor, she worked at Harbridge House Consulting Group in Boston. Ted and Sally then relocated to Syracuse, NY where their children were born. Sally was known throughout the neighborhood as serving the best peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to the children who flocked to her home to play.

In 1977, Ted and Sally moved to New Mexico. Although Sally was an East Coast gal, she bloomed in the desert. She served as the president of the Osuna Elementary School PTA, volunteered often at the Albuquerque

Academy and with the symphony, was an active faculty wife, and made a wide network of friends. She later became an Academic Advisor at the Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico, where numerous students benefited from her wise counsel and warm support.

Sally enjoyed traveling, and Ted's academic career took them to Maine, New Hampshire, New York City, Canberra, Australia and Washington D.C. for extended stays. She especially enjoyed visiting France and Ted's ancestral home of Lucca, Italy.

Sally loved champagne, raspberries, bunnies, and a good party. She was an avid reader and liked to discuss politics and the New York Times' latest editorial. Sally made everything special; whether a holiday table or a well-wrapped gift, she made it memorable and unique. Sally was a superb cook and a gracious hostess who could whip up a dinner for twelve guests with an hour's notice from Ted. For Sally, Christmas was not just a holiday, but an event! She was well known for her annual Christmas party with traditional off-key singing at the piano, and she thrived on staying up all night wrapping gifts on Christmas Eve and then serving an elaborate champagne brunch on Christmas Day. Sally believed in dining only by candlelight, which is a view several grandchildren now share.

Sally lived the last year of her life after her diagnosis the same as she lived all her other years: with dignity, grace and good humor, and on her own terms! Sally was a warm and generous friend; an outstanding wife, mother, sister, daughter, and grandmother; and a joy to know. Although we dearly wish Sally's life could have gone on a bit longer, we are filled with gratitude for the truly wonderful life she led and our chance to be part of it.

A Memorial Service will be held Sunday, February 1, 2015, 12:00 p.m., at the UNM Alumni Chapel, on the campus of the University of New Mexico with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Sally's name may be made online to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (jdrf.org).

FRENCH – Wyoming
7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE
(505) 823-9400

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 1. 12:00 PM (MT)

UNM Alumni Memorial Chapel
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM

Tribute Wall

SA

“ *This sad news just came to me in Minnesota by way of the UNMSOL Alumni Newsletter email. I am so sorry. My heart and deepest sympathy goes out to you and your family. I will write more to you personally, and am thinking of you in this saddest of times.*
Sally Ireland Robertson, UNMSOL, '79

Sally - February 05, 2015 at 08:35 PM

TM

“ *Ted:*

The devotion and love for Sally is most evident from her obituary.

I send heartfelt condolences and also prayers for her, you and the family.

Best,

Tom Montoya

Tom Montoya - January 31, 2015 at 08:33 AM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Sally L. Occhialino.*



January 27, 2015 at 01:42 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Sally L. Occhialino.



January 25, 2015 at 12:08 AM



“ Sally was a beautiful classy women. I never saw her stressed never complained about her illness she put it on her plate and dealt with it . I cut and styled her hair for years Losing her hair she took it in stride bought a wig did not complained but had fun with it. Sally is an inspiration to all! She loved life and her family very much she will be truly missed .GOD BLESS YOU keeping you in my prayes Rhonda Gonzales her hair stylist

Rhonda Gonzales - January 23, 2015 at 11:32 AM



“ Sally was a graceful and talented person. I loved her enthusiasm and she was so incredibly welcoming over the years. My thoughts and prayers with her family. Erin K. Balog

Erin Balog - January 23, 2015 at 09:57 AM



“ Ted and family...Tom and I were so sorry to hear the news about Sally. We both remember her fondly from Tom's Law School days. What a loss for your family. Patty and Tom Jones

patty jones - January 22, 2015 at 10:00 AM

NS

“ Sally was a very special lady. I adored her spunk and determination. What fond memories I have of their "wassail" parties around the holidays. I loved watching her mix up that very "dangerous" drink! I was always a bit drunk when I left their house. I know she is "whooping it up" in Heaven!! Ted and family, my deepest sympathy to you all. Think of all the "fun" times you gave you all.

Fondly,
Norma Schmider

Norma Schmider - January 21, 2015 at 07:25 PM

NB

“ Sally was a dear friend, having known her since our Osuna Elementary and Albuquerque Academy associations.. We also played bridge for many years. I have treasured a lovely tray she gave me over twenty years ago and will continue to do so. I will miss her. My sympathies are with her family.

Norma Butterfield Barney

Norma Butterfield Barney - January 21, 2015 at 01:11 PM

NB

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Norma Butterfield Barney

Norma Butterfield Barney - January 21, 2015 at 01:09 PM