



## Stuart C. Eastman

February 17, 1938 - January 15, 2016

Stuart Eastman. - Born February 17, 1938; Died January 15, 2016

Stuart Eastman's life story could have been written by Charles Dickens. Born to a mother whose husband left the family soon after Stuart's arrival, Stuart faced a young life filled with financial challenges and deprivation. Stuart's mother Vera, a nurse, tried valiantly to keep her family together, but found that she could not both support her two sons and keep them with her. During World War II, Stuart and his older brother Harold lived with their maternal grandparents in Sherbrooke, Quebec. It was during this early period of his life that Stuart formed a profound attachment to his grandfather Harold James who became Stuart's role model and champion. Grandfather Harold taught Stuart to play cribbage when Stuart was only four, a card game Stuart loved and played until the last days of his life. Due to the advanced age of his grandparents, however, other living arrangements were necessary for Stuart and his brother. At the tender age of six, Stuart entered St. John's Academy, a boarding school and orphanage on Long Island, New York, where he and the other children were tended by outpatients from the mental hospital that formed part of the St. John's complex. Among the stories Stuart told of that experience was the "St. John's Students Fight Fires" episode. Apparently, the school administrators thought it perfectly normal to recruit the pupils and send them off with shovels and towels to battle the brush fires that occasionally erupted around the school grounds.

Life became a bit less harrowing when Stuart left St. John's and lived with his mother and brother first in The Bronx, New York, and later in Waltham, Massachusetts. Paper routes and other part time employment helped to keep the family afloat. The tentative nature of the family finances resulted in another real disappointment for Stuart. Although he graduated from Waltham High School at the age of sixteen with a college academic scholarship, his mother could not afford the other attendant costs of university life. Too young for the military, Stuart travelled to Boston where he served as Massachusetts State Senate Page for a year. The highlight of that period was a trip to Hyannis Port where the young Jack Kennedy and his family hosted the state senators and the senate pages, Stuart among them.

At age seventeen, Stuart enlisted in the United States Air Force and tested into electronics school, an educational experience that changed Stuart's life. Stuart's training in electronics led to his career with California aerospace companies. His was an international career that took Stuart to the developing airports of Iceland, Greenland, Spain and Italy where he installed radar equipment and controls. It was a frantic life of travel and troubleshooting for him. During this period of his career he also worked at earning a college degree but because of the unpredictable nature of his career demands, it took him fifteen years to earn his undergraduate degree. He was proud of the fact, however, that he earned his masters degree in business in just a year when the travel demands of his career changed. Ultimately, Stuart developed a business of his own, a business in computer control systems that once again required international travel. In spite of the burdens of time zone changes and over familiarity with airports, he was always grateful for those trips to Australia where he explored the Great Barrier Reef and New Zealand where he skied The Remarkables.

Stuart's personal life took a happy turn when he met Judith Salzinski, a

woman with a teenage daughter and son and a career in academia. Undaunted, Stuart plunged into a relationship and marriage that was to last twenty-eight wonderful years, twelve years in Laguna Beach, California, four in the Lake Tahoe area, and the last twelve in Fort Collins, Colorado. He was a present and loving stepfather who was known to tutor son Geoff in geometry via fax instructions from Singapore and to drive 500 miles through rubble and road blockades to make sure daughter Nicole had survived the earthquake that shook UC Santa Cruz and all of Northern California in 1989. He and Judith danced at both their children's weddings, one in Florence, Italy, and another atop Steamboat Mountain in Colorado. He welcomed Nicole and grandson Josh into our Fort Collins home as Nicole and Josh transitioned from life in Italy to life in the U.S. and awaited the arrival of Leonardo, Nicole's husband and Joshie's "Babbo." Stuart helped son Geoff establish and grow his own business with expert counseling and financial support. And, he was thrilled to be "Pops" to Josh as well as to Colton and Travis, the young sons of Geoff and his wife Cary. Nothing gave Stuart more joy than his family which also included his brother Harold, sister-in-law Soula, niece Susan, nephew Scott and his wife Gretchen, nephew Mark and his wife Carol, and nephew Andy, as well as great nephews and niece. He was his family's rock and his wife's hero.

When Stuart was diagnosed with a form of leukemia in 2002, he faced his health challenges with determination and optimism. He skied for years following that diagnosis. He took up golf after a forty-year hiatus, becoming a valued member of the Romeo Golf Organization, managing their handicap records. He loved to fly fish, chasing that elusive "big one" in Poudre Canyon and on the Yampa River through rivers in Wyoming and Idaho and Montana. He was so thrilled when on a fishing trip with Geoff last April he caught an enormous rainbow trout. In his retirement, Stuart also became an expert woodworker and his bookcases, ladder shelves, coffee tables, desks, chests,

baby crib, and Murphy bed all stand as testament to his skill. Judith and her family are so consoled to be living among the many beautiful pieces created by Stuart.

Stuart loved living in Colorado, a place filled with nature's wonders that offered the outdoor activities he enjoyed, and populated with people so willing to extend friendship. Stuart delighted in the many friends he made in his social circles, his golf club, his cribbage and book groups, and his film group. He was an active member of the community, offering his talents to various organizations. For example, Stuart was an enthusiastic supporter of BASECAMP, an organization that provides before and after school care for our Fort Collins elementary school children. He served on their board of directors for years and was key in reorganizing BASECAMP's financial structure. Having been a "latch-key" kid himself due to his mother's financially strained circumstances, Stuart wanted to provide our local children with a safe place to play and do their homework before and after school. BASECAMP has done just that and is a model for other school districts in Colorado.

Like a Dickens hero, Stuart Eastman was a man of integrity who wore his virtue lightly and delighted those around him with his calm demeanor and quick wit. Although his disease slowly undermined his health, Stuart hoped for one more fishing season but was also ready to embrace the inevitable. He did just that on the night of January 15th surrounded by Judith, his wife, Nicole and Geoff, his children, and Scott, his nephew. Immediately upon Stuart's death, daughter Nicole quoted this passage from Shakespeare's Hamlet, a fitting tribute to our prince of a man: "Now cracks a noble heart. Good night, sweet prince. And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest." Stuart's wife Judith would add one more quote, also from Hamlet, to express her love and gratitude to Stuart: "I shall not look upon his like again."

A Celebration of Stuart's Life will be held Saturday July 23rd, 2016 at the

Eastman residence.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JUL **23** (AKT)

Eastman Residence

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ *What a wonderful human being we have all lost in this lifetime Stuart was really a one-of-a-kind and gentle giant of a man. He made us smile and laugh, and he made us contemplate life, as well. How fortunate all of us were to have had him in our lives for so many years, especially his family, who loved him so dearly. He was a bright and shining star for all of us.*

*We have so many fond memories of Stuart and Judy while they were here in Laguna Beach--of the many dinners we shared at each other's dining tables; of the chardonnay toasts and incredible conversation. Of watching our children grow up together. We will surely miss him.*

*The tribute written for Stuart by Judy and Nicole was wonderful, so informative, and truly touching, as were the photos accompanying it. By reading it, we learned so much about Stuart that we didn't know. What a man he was.*

*Our sincere love and sympathy,*

*Tom and Christie Shary*

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**Christie Shary** - February 22, 2016 at 12:46 PM

BB

“ *Stuart was such Fine Gentleman. Also, a great host & a good person.who made a difference in the lives of others. I am very glad that I knew him and called him a friend. I am just sorry that we ran out of time and never got in the game of cribbage that we discussed. Time together was too short. I will miss Stuart. - Bev*  
*Stuart was a valuable asset to our BASE Camp board. He was a careful steward of our finances and gave fellow board members clarity in understanding balance sheets. He was a good friend who gifted us with great conversation. I'm sorry that we never had our book discussion to Ellis' Quartet --Bob*

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**Bev Schmitt & Bob Bacon** - January 27, 2016 at 05:07 PM

CW

“ *What a beautiful, interesting and moving tribute to Stuart. I'm saddened to learn of his passing and my heart goes out to Judy, Nicole and Geoff in particular. I'm grateful for the fond memories I have of Stuart.*

*With love to you all!*

*Chantal*



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**Chantal Wilford** - January 26, 2016 at 11:23 AM



“ 17 files added to the album *Brother, uncle, friend*



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**Bohlender Funeral Chapel** - January 25, 2016 at 10:20 PM

CJ

“Stuart seemed to have a heart that grew bigger as he aged. His stories, our memories: “a boys story is the best that is ever told” will always remain with us. Stuart led a beautiful life of humility and bravery. Most importantly, Stuart lived by example of how to love well and love completely.

Stuart was a man to slow dance with his sweetheart in the kitchen on holidays and random weekdays. He was always the romantic and just adored his wife, our mother. He beamed with pride when with his grandchildren, especially when reeling in a fish. Stuart was passionate in perfecting and improving his crafts and sports. He received such joy being outdoors and sure loved being in the Poudre Canyon.

Stuart always took an interest, always tried to assist in his thoughtful way. He helped guide us into having greater dreams and grander goals. Stuart believed in the best of us, all of the time.

Stuart is continually with us. His hands are all over our house in his crafted furniture. Our first child slept in the crib that he built; that crib converted to the bed our second child sleeps in now. My husband is the man he is today because of Stuart’s great influence and love. His spirit is all around and in our wonderful memories- especially of that hearty belly laugh! Stuart now lives on in my children. His grandchildren continue that march on the great circle of life. Stuart loved his family with his whole heart and never held that back. He loved life and was open to it. He received great love as he gave so fully. He is deeply missed.

*How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting when we meet again.*

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Cary Jernigan - January 23, 2016 at 12:09 PM

CJ

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Cary Jernigan** - January 23, 2016 at 12:08 PM

KF

“ Thank you, Judith and Nicole, for allowing others to share their moving and beautiful memories. Judith's participation in the Emily Dickinson Poetry Class remains etched in my mind. Her sensitivity to each word of a poem as well as details of Emily's background and culture were impressive. Being able to walk from our house to Judith and Stuart's welcoming home to attend a discussion of Emily's poetry and participating with others who were warmly embraced remains a vivid memory. Kathy Fischer

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**Kathy Fischer** - January 23, 2016 at 11:29 AM

JF

“ After reading the summary of Stuart's life we realized how little we knew him. It was wonderful to learn how close he was and how supportive he was to the family. We will miss him so much because we would like to have talked to him about his most interesting life. Unfortunately, we only became acquainted with Stuart a few years ago. We learned and appreciated that he was a gentle and quiet man with a great reservoir of knowledge. We remember how he would sit and listen to the conversation, then after some time, he would make a couple of profound statements that would add important points.

The love of Stuart and Judith was always obvious but it became more evident during the last year when they struggled together to overcome Stuart's major health issues.

Thank you, Judith and Nicole, for sharing his story and the photographs that enhance it.

Love,

Jim and Mary

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**Jim and Mary Fuller** - January 21, 2016 at 11:22 AM

BW

“ *Stewart was the kind of man who was always there to assist, help and support his friends and family - anytime and anywhere. We have so many fine remembrances of things we all went through including:*

*-The night that Forrest was out of town and a boulder came down during a rainstorm and hit the bedroom wall. Bonnie called Stuart in the middle of the night thinking someone might be breaking in.*

*Stuart ran over immediately to rescue Bonnie and then worked to secure the hillside the next day.*

*-The days we all worked together mopping the mud from the floors after an El Nino storm.*

*-All of the great salmon Stuart cooked on the grill.*

*-The bike rides, kayak paddling, and hiking*

*-Stuart's financial advice that was always well-thought out and helpful.*

*We have so many warm memories of Stuart. Thinking of him brings a smile to our faces.*

*This beautiful quote from Gibran can help with perspective.....*

*"Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance."*

*Stuart brought good thoughts to our souls.*

*Bonnie and Forrest*

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**Bonita Wild** - January 20, 2016 at 08:09 PM

NB

*Thanks for sharing, Bonnie. I didn't know the boulder story. He was always willing to help! I found so many great pictures of you and Forrest around the dinner table with Mom and Stuart when I was going through photos. Such good times! Thanks again for sharing your special memories.*

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**Nicole Bandini** - January 21, 2016 at 05:09 PM

NB

“ 1 file added to the album *Brother, uncle, friend*



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**Nicole Bandini** - January 20, 2016 at 04:49 PM

CM

“ *Thank you, Judith and Nicole, for sharing this beautiful outline of Stuart's life. I feel privileged to have known him.*  
*Love,*  
*Candace McMahan*

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**Candace McMahan** - January 20, 2016 at 04:15 PM

NB

“ *Scott & Gretchen Eastman (pictured below) were priceless to Stuart and his family, especially in Stuart's last days. Thank you, Scott, for all that you did for Stuart and for Judith, Geoff & Nicole. Gretchen, thank you also for sparing your husband for all the time he was with us.*

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**Nicole Bandini** - January 20, 2016 at 02:48 PM

NB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Nicole Bandini - January 20, 2016 at 02:43 PM

NB

“ 2 files added to the album Getting the job done



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Nicole Bandini - January 20, 2016 at 02:38 PM

NB

“ 10 files added to the album Cherished Pops and Step-Dad



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Nicole Bandini - January 20, 2016 at 02:22 PM

NB

“ 5 files added to the album *Brother, uncle, friend*



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Nicole Bandini - January 20, 2016 at 02:12 PM

NB

“ 4 files added to the album *Devoted and beloved husband*



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Nicole Bandini - January 20, 2016 at 02:09 PM

NB

“ Remembering Stuart

*We travel along a path  
Futures unseen*

*People entering this path  
New romance unexpectedly in one's life.*

*Someone to share the love of wine  
The pleasure of great food  
The company of family and friends.*

*Together we  
Kayaked the rough waters*

*Descending the mountain tops we  
Shushed the powdery snow*

*Along the clear mountain streams we  
Cast a long line.*

*Roads were traveled  
Mountain trails were hiked  
Cities were explored.*

*My greatest joy has been to  
Travel through life with you*

*Your hand in mine until the end.*

*-Sue Salzinski*

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**Nicole Bandini** - January 20, 2016 at 02:06 PM

NB

“ 3 files added to the album *Getting the job done*



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**Nicole Bandini** - January 19, 2016 at 05:12 PM

NB

“ 2 files added to the album *Outdoorsman*



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**Nicole Bandini** - January 19, 2016 at 04:23 PM

NB

“ 8 files added to the album *Cherished Pops and Step-Dad*



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**Nicole Bandini** - January 19, 2016 at 03:05 PM

NB

“ 5 files added to the album *Devoted and beloved husband*



Nicole Bandini - January 19, 2016 at 02:49 PM

NB

“ 4 files added to the album *Outdoorsman*



Nicole Bandini - January 19, 2016 at 02:34 PM

NB

“ 1 file added to the album *Outdoorsman*



Nicole Bandini - January 19, 2016 at 02:29 PM