

Elaine Joan Schlenker, 68, of Bozeman passed away October 19, 2007 at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington due to a cerebral aneurysm followed by several smaller strokes.

She was born March 5, 1939 in Billings, Montana to Janette (Young) and George Stebbins, the eldest of three children.

She attended schools in Laurel, Eastern Montana College, and Montana State University where she earned a Bachelors degree. She graduated with honors and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She was united in marriage to Leo Schlenker on September 19, 1959 and the couple had three children, Michael, Merry, and Mitchell.

Elaine was active in the Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School for over twenty years. She was a member of the Extension Homemakers for thirty years. Also for many years, she was a 4-H leader, volunteer with the Museum of the Rockies, the Bozeman Symphony, Bozeman Public Schools, Habitat for Humanity, and the Guardian Ad Litem program. In her retirement, she knitted baby hats for Bozeman Deaconess newborns, reaching the 1000 mark in the summer of 2007.

Among her hobbies, Elaine loved to do needlework, sewing and crafts, spending time with family, and traveling. She also loved paddlewheel boat cruising. Elaine took her dream trip to Scotland with her sister in April 2007.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and by her son, Mitch, on March 6, 1986.

Elaine is survived by her husband, Leo, of Bozeman; son, Mike (Shelly) of Ennis, MT; daughter, Merry (David) Bruce of Seattle, WA, and four grandchildren, Robbie and Cassie of Ennis, and Mitch and Molly of Seattle. Elaine was in Seattle for a month being a nanny to Merry's daughter when she passed away. She is also survived by her brother, Paul Stebbins of Vancouver, WA, and sister, Alexandra Herzog of Kalispell, MT.

Elaine's heart was donated for research purposes and her kidneys were donated so others may live.

Funeral Services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, October 26 at Bozeman United Methodist Church. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, Ste. 3200, 915 Highland Blvd. Bozeman, MT 59715. Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service.