



Gail Cavanagh

February 3, 1952 - July 23, 2025

Gail Marie Cavanagh, of Chicago's Uptown neighborhood, passed away as the result of pancreatic cancer July 23, 2025.

Born in Chicago, Gail graduated from West Leyden High School in Northlake, IL, worked as a secretary, earned an Interior Design degree from Paier College of Art in Hamden, CT and then graduated from Boston Architectural College. She served at several architectural firms designing hospitals, schools, and hotels. Gail also had the unique experience as a project manager on a gated community in Egypt's 6th of October City during the Arab Spring.

Longtime member and former president (2013-14) of Chicago Women in Architecture and also served on the Foundation Board from 2015-17.

She is survived by her dear friends Alexandra (Larry Dome) Mazzeo of Trumbull, CT, Betsy Covell of Chicago, Julia Parker (Michael Oliveras) of Hull, MA, Mike Gomes of Quincy, MA, Bill Lassetter and Michel Provencher of Waltham, MA, and feline companions Theo and Aunt PittyPat.

Gail was the eldest sibling of Karen (Michael) Bily of St. Charles, IL, David Baran of Bradley, IL, Mark (Laurie) Baran of LaGrange Park, IL, and Kevin (Doreen) Baran of Carol Stream, IL.

Dear aunt of many.

Preceded in death by her father Eugene Adelbert Baran. She is survived by her mother Dolores Bernice Baran (nee Zaionc).

Gail hosted a living Celebration of Life for friends and family in July, 2025 and has chosen a green cremation.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to the Animal Welfare League of Chicago: <https://animalwelfareleague.com/store/product/in-honor-of/>.

Arrangements by Inclusive Funeral Care, 773-318-1305 or www.InclusiveFuneralCare.com.

Tribute Wall

SV

“ Susan V. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Cavanagh.

Susan V. - August 18, 2025 at 02:47 PM

KH

“ Kim H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail Cavanagh.

Kim H. - August 18, 2025 at 08:41 AM

CA

“ Gail and I along with Marsha Spencer and Kim Haig were part of the core team that put together CWA's 40th Anniversary exhibit. Together we wrote the grant requests, assembled the exhibit team, and coordinated with CAF who supported and hosted the event. Gail took the helm the year of the anniversary and established a year full of events and discussions to celebrate. Through all this we developed our friendship. We both had experienced the loss of work during the great recession so we also connected at that level. CWA will always carry Gail's imprint and I am sure she touched some of the later women who have since passed through CWA and those who continue to keep CWA current and making a difference in the architecture profession. It is sad that we have lost Gail and she will be missed. (A photo of Gail as CWA President has been shared on this site. It is a great photo of her so wanted to share.)

Charlene Andreas - August 17, 2025 at 04:47 PM

KH

I also enjoyed helping Gail with the 40th Anniversary Exhibit and we often commuted into the downtown together for the CWA meetings. She was a creative thinker and hard worker, despite personal challenges, and I look back on our time together fondly. I'm sure she's leading the charge wherever she happens to be now!!

Kim Haig - August 18, 2025 at 08:38 AM

DR

*My name is Daniel Brennan.
I was Gails loving husband in New Haven Ct. Our love relationship lasted from 1980 thru 1995. Gail was and is my soul mate. I have always loved her and always will. She was a very independent woman. Extremely talented. Highly intelligent. We had our honeymoon in Canada. We vacationers in Cape Code and in the Florida Keys. I have written to her several times but inever got a response. My heart was broken when she left me. I have loved her and prayed for her all these years. I know she will listed to me now. I will always love Gail. I love a cherish all our memories.*

*Daniel R Brennan
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Daniel RBrennan - October 04, 2025 at 01:49 AM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charlene Andreas - August 17, 2025 at 04:35 PM

LD

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Larry Dome - August 01, 2025 at 04:08 PM

DR

*Former Husband. Daniel.
I love gail with all my heart.*



Daniel RBrennan - October 04, 2025 at 02:04 AM

CC

“ *Gail was a very special person. Our paths crossed while working at SCB in Chicago and discovery we both worked at SBRA in Boston. When my husband and I were working in the UAE we met up with Gail at Christmas in 2010 and we had a wonderful time touring Cairo together. She will be missed.*

Christine Carlyle - July 24, 2025 at 10:31 PM

BP

I met Gail in 1999 (or thereabouts) when we were both working at Perry Dean Roger's & Partners (architects) in Boston. We discovered we had a New Haven connection and after that we just couldn't stop talking! What a dynamic character she was! And when she set her mind on doing something, there was no stopping her! She was a valued member of our close circle of friends, and we will miss her. - Bill and Michel

Bill Lassetter & Michel Provencher - July 28, 2025 at 09:07 AM

MP

*From the first we met it was a bond of friendship. R.I.P. my dear friend.
I miss you like crazy already already.*
Michel Provencher

Michel Provencher - July 28, 2025 at 11:49 AM

MV

Dear Gail, we met in 1979-80, you were finishing up at Paier (Hamden, CT), you bailed me out when I was still so shy! We got married and divorced, we shared New Haven, Fitzwilly's! We met rarely once you moved to Boston, then Chicago, once at O'Hare, you met us there when we had a layover! Thanks to the internet, we were easily able to stay in touch. I will always cherish our friendship over 45!!! years! Thanks so much for your friendship. I will miss you terribly!

Miriam E. Vitale - August 01, 2025 at 10:50 AM