



Jillian Elizabeth Racchini

January 17, 1962 - January 13, 2024

Jillian Racchini, age 61, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her family on Saturday, January 13th, 2024, after a two-year battle with leukemia.

Jillian (Jill) Elizabeth Burtosky was born in Great Falls, Montana, to Annlyn Kemper and Edward Douglas Burtosky on January 17th, 1962. She grew up in Great Falls, alongside her brothers Douglas and Michael. She enjoyed participating in the marching band and choir. She graduated from Russell High School and continued on to college close to home at Eastern Montana College (now MSU Billings) to complete a degree in Elementary Education.

After college, Jillian joined a travelling Christian mime group 'Epic' headquartered in Minneapolis, where she met Louis at church. When living in St. Paul, Jillian worked as a special education teacher, helping hard of hearing and disabled students through sign language and specialized learning techniques. Jillian married Louis Racchini on August 11th, 1990, in Gem Lake, Minnesota, and enjoyed 33 years of marriage together. Once married, they lived in the Twin Cities area, where they welcomed their first son, Josiah. They then moved to Madison, Wisconsin before settling in their first home in Stoughton, Wisconsin. During their years in the Madison area, they welcomed their youngest son, Nathanael. Jillian treasured being a mother and enjoyed homeschooling her children while they were young. As they got older and

joined public school, she continued her love of education as a substitute teacher. In 2006 the family moved to Laramie, Wyoming, where they lived for a few years before settling down in Fort Collins in 2012. Jillian enjoyed living in Fort Collins for the remainder of her life.

Jillian will be remembered for her kindness, her laughter, her joy at being a friend and giving to her community, and for her devotion to her faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. She was a friend to many and an active part of her community, leading marriage and MOPS groups in the church. She championed Operation Christmas Child, working with the organization for 15 years and pioneering a drop off center for southeast Wyoming in Laramie. Her efforts were recognized widely, and she was invited to help with the distribution of the Operation Christmas Child gifts in Honduras, a memory she cherished.

Jillian enjoyed many activities throughout her life. An avid cook and gardener, she loved fostering life through her efforts and feeding her loved ones and her body with clean, natural foods and medicines. She enjoyed studying the Bible with her peers, as well as inviting friends over for food and fellowship. She enjoyed crafts and creation, in particular making candles and knitting. She enjoyed walking, hiking, and bike-riding around her neighborhood and beyond. She and Louis explored many National Parks together. She loved the color purple, from the living room furniture to an everyday scarf, and enjoyed having a nice candle going on a calm evening at home with her family. She loved animals and was a doting caretaker for her dog, Leo. She treasured being a wife, a mother, a friend and a caretaker, as well as a servant of the Lord. She is missed greatly by her family, her friends, her church community and all who knew her.

Jillian is preceded in death by her parents, Edward Douglas Burtosky, Annlyn Kemper, and her dear stepfather William (Buddy) Claunch, as well as her

brother, Michael (Mike) Burtosky. She is survived by her husband, Louis Racchini, her two sons, Josiah Racchini and his wife Kunling Huang, and Nathanael Racchini and his long-time partner Sarah Ross. She is also survived by her brother, Douglas (Doug) Burtosky and his wife Sheila, as well as many loved cousins, siblings-in-law, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial will be held in remembrance of Jillian on Monday, January 22nd, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Timberline Church in the East Auditorium. We would love all her friends and family to come together as a community as we remember the light and love that Jillian brought to this world. If you feel moved to, we are recognizing Jillian's love for candles and the color purple by inviting you to bring a candle to the service and/or wear a purple item. Jillian will be interred in a private ceremony with her family at Grandview Cemetery later in the day.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

JAN **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

Timberline Church
2908 S. Timberline Rd.
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tribute Wall

LR

“ Hi Everyone, sorry about the late notice, but if you cannot attend the memorial service in person and want to watch on line here is the link : <https://youtube.com/live/SJQuH5-z2-M?feature=share>
-Louis

Louis Racchini - January 21, 2024 at 08:32 PM

RF

“ Hello Everyone,

We wanted to let you know that there will be an open mic at Jillian's memorial service. We encourage you to share something memorable about your relationship/activities with her. If you don't want to talk, you can bring a written statement and the pastor would be happy to read it. If you are not able to attend and would like to send a written statement, please send it to Pastor John DeAnda at [j deanda@timberlinechurch.org](mailto:deanda@timberlinechurch.org).

-The Racchini Family

Racchini Family - January 19, 2024 at 08:04 PM

KM

“ So sorry to hear of the passing of aunt Jill. Thinking of your family during this hard time and praying for healing and comfort. I remember her love for Black Friday shopping. Going with her was the first time I had ever gone ❤️ Katrina McAllister



Katrina mcallister - January 19, 2024 at 03:00 PM

PR

“ *Louis and family, i want to say how sorry we are for your loss, in our opinion it was way to soon. we have been praying for you and your family for peace and strength during this time. feel free to contact us just to chat and for support. with love Paul.Teri and family.*

paul Racchini - January 19, 2024 at 09:48 AM

AB

“ *I have such wonderful memories of Jillian as a beautiful ,smart little girl who could melt your heart with a smile. Then as a charming ,intelligent, vibrant young lady. Then with all those traits blended into a lovable, talented, caring adult. Jillian, I know you can hear me. I'll always love you and your family.*

Alyce Brutosky - January 18, 2024 at 06:12 PM

SB



Sheila Burtosky - January 19, 2024 at 12:19 PM

SB

“ *Jillian with her brother Douglas in Arlington, Texas August 1993*



Sheila Burtosky - January 18, 2024 at 04:26 PM

SB

Baby Josiah around 7 mos

Sheila Burtosky - January 18, 2024 at 04:33 PM

MI

“ I met Jillian for the first time virtually "in the U.K." and knew her as Rocky Mountain Gal on a leukemia forum web site hosted there. Sharing forum posts I learned about her difficult leukemia battle and came to know her personally not just through common disease. My wife and I had the honor in Houston last year to meet Jillian and Louis in person. Our lives were enriched by having met them both and experience the love they shared. We will always remember Jillian and keep her and Louis in our prayers. Jillian's stories about life in the rocky mountains will be with us always. Jillian is at peace. All our love, Michael & Cecelia

Michael - January 18, 2024 at 10:24 AM

SB

Love that you shared this!

Sheila Burtosky - January 18, 2024 at 04:27 PM

AR

“ Aunt Jill, you are the reason I started doing the shoeboxes with Samaritans Purse. I will do an extra one moving forward in memory of you each year. I will not forget your last visit here and our trip to Costco. Until we meet again. Prayers to you Louis, Josiah, and Nathanael. Love, Amy

Amy Racchini - January 17, 2024 at 05:55 PM

SB

That's so sweet Amy. I'm Jillian's sister-in-law in Idaho and I'd like to join you on the annual shoebox tribute in memory of your Aunt Jill. She would love this tender gesture. Thanks for sharing it.

Sheila Burtosky - January 17, 2024 at 11:56 PM

SB

“ Happy birthday in heaven Jillian 🙏
I'm celebrating our friendship today 💜

<https://youtu.be/0m4uQ-tMBWU?si=FF-qCg0zqPCp4Rmo>

Sheila Burtosky - January 17, 2024 at 08:23 AM

SB

“ Sheila Burtosky lit a candle in memory of
Jillian Elizabeth Racchini



Sheila Burtosky - January 17, 2024 at 05:47 AM