



Jillian A. Bradley

March 9, 1944 - August 11, 2019

Jillian A. Bradley, Retired Teacher

Jillian A. Bradley, aged 75, of Rehoboth Beach, DE passed away surrounded by her family on Sunday, August 11th at Harbor Healthcare in Lewes, DE after a long illness.

Jillian was born March 9th, 1944 in Dunedin, New Zealand, the daughter of Ash and Nance McGuinness. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, David R. Bradley; two daughters: Tracey Bradley of Atlanta, GA and Alison White and husband, Brian of Lewes; three grandchildren: Bradley, Molly, and Morgan White, all of Lewes, and her siblings: Jane McGuinness and John McGuinness of Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Jillian was preceded in death by her brother Paul McGuinness of Dunedin, New Zealand.

An immigrant, Jillian arrived in the United States in 1965 after meeting and marrying her American husband, David, who was stationed in New Zealand while serving in the US Navy. Having never been overseas, she courageously left her family back home to make a new life in the US. Jillian became a US citizen in 1989. She never lost her deep connection to and pride in her beloved homeland of New Zealand and remained a dual national for the rest of her life. Her keen awareness of international affairs and travel has become part of the fabric of her extended family.

Jillian was a dedicated educator and a continuous student. She earned her Elementary Teaching Certificate from Dunedin Teacher's College in New Zealand and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Reading Specialist Certificate, and Master of Arts in Education from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. She obtained the latter while working full-time as a teacher and raising two children.

Jillian taught at St. Anne's Catholic School and Reynolds Junior High School in Lancaster, PA as a fourth-grade teacher, Reading Specialist, and English as a Second Language teacher. A dynamic educator, she celebrated the diverse experiences of students from around the world. She coached the St. Anne's and Reynolds Girls Basketball teams and

led the latter to a City Championship.

When Jillian saw a problem, she fixed it. When she realized that young girls in Lititz did not have a basketball team, she started one. When her new arrival students wanted to continue learning English over the summer, Jillian convinced the school to open twice a week so she could teach them. A long-time resident of Lititz, PA, she was active in St. James Catholic Church where she ran the CCD program for several years. She was also president of the local AFS Chapter, welcoming students and their families from around the globe into her home and maintaining these connections throughout her lifetime.

Upon retirement in 1998, Jillian moved with her husband to Rehoboth Beach where she was a member of Kings Creek Country Club and the Rehoboth Beach YMCA. She returned to her love of competitive swimming, winning numerous medals in the DE Senior Olympics and was a record-holder in her age group for the 500-yard freestyle.

In her spare time, Jillian was an expert seamstress, quilter, upholsterer, and knitter and leaves behind many priceless hand-made heirlooms with her family and friends. She read voraciously and devoured books so quickly that those who did not witness it refused to believe she had finished the book that fast.

Jillian will be remembered for her curiosity, compassion, fearlessness in a debate (with a smile at the end), her ability to laugh at herself and a huge heart. She faced her lengthy illness with courage, supported by her devoted husband, children, and the caring staff at Harbor Healthcare.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Jillian's name be made to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration at: <https://www.theaftd.org/support-aftds-mission>

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, August 19, 2019 at 11:00 AM at St. Edmond Catholic Church, 409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971, where friends may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment will be private.

Please sign Jillian's online guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS DELIVERED BY 3 PM, SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019 TO PARSELL FUNERAL HOMES, LEWES, DE.

Events

AUG **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

19

St. Edmond Catholic Church

409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE, US, 19971

AUG **Mass of Christian Burial** 11:00AM

19

St. Edmond Catholic Church

409 King Charles Avenue, Rehoboth Beach, DE, US, 19971

Comments



“ My memories of Jill begin in 1962 when she burst into my life as a fellow student at Dunedin Teacher's College in New Zealand. Vivacious, confident and warm hearted she became one of a trio, Jenny Darragh, Jill Mcguinness and myself. The deep bond we formed became a lifetime friendship stretching across the three different countries that became our homes. In those student years we shared so much, a love of literature and drama with poetry and play readings in coffee bars, drama camps to prepare theatre productions, creativity especially sewing, sports, debates, discussions, fun and laughter, studies and parties! Music, classical, folk and pop of the sixties, and always Johnny Mathis. Jill was a person of great integrity and loyalty so when she married Brad and left to build a family life in America we knew it would last a lifetime. When Jenny moved to Canada and I to England our long distance friendship was maintained, not always easy but always there. Special highlights were when Jill came to visit my family and when she let Tracey come to spend a summer with us. The happiest time was Jenny's wedding, 1998, with all three of us together again_oh the talking, the laughter, the love and the joy. I hope the sharing of these memories may bring some comfort to Brad Tracey and Alison in the loss of your beautiful wife and mother after the dark days of illness you have shared. Please accept my deep sympathy and love. Alison Whitting (McClelland)
Portsmouth, England

Alison Whitting - August 24, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. Jillian brought us so many good laughs at Reynolds. She was a wonderful lady and I know she brought many blessings to her family. Judy and Jim Fackler

Judy Fackler - August 18, 2019 at 03:23 PM



“ These are the things I will remember with love. Jill and I met as young women at college in Dunedin, New Zealand more than fifty years ago. She, Alison Whitting and I became lifelong friends. I admired her for her confidence, her style and her strong convictions and I loved her for her warmth and humour. So many conversations, so many debates, so many laughs we had. So many Johnny Mathis songs! She was the first of us to venture into the unknowns of marriage in a new country and we missed her. We stayed in touch as best we could over the years, still so much in common as mothers and teachers in countries not of our beginnings. I was so delighted when she and Alison were able to be at my marriage to Andy twenty some years ago. It was a perfect, happy time. Every time I fill the beautiful vase she gave me on that occasion I remember my dear friend and our unforgettable times together. Andy and I send our thoughts and sympathy to Jill's family. It has been a sad journey for you these last years saying goodbye to a vibrant and beautiful wife and mother.

With love,

Jenny Darragh

Abbotsford, British Columbia

Canada

Jenny Darragh - August 17, 2019 at 11:58 AM



“ May you be at peace and with God. To the family, please accept our heartfelt sympathies. Jillian was a great friend and I enjoyed many laughs with her at our Y classes.

Joanne Hopkins - August 18, 2019 at 02:22 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jillian A. Bradley.



August 16, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ I was sad to hear that Jill had passed away. My deepest sympathy to you and all the family. I'm sure it's been a long and difficult road since Jill 's diagnosis. She was such a vibrant woman and I am so glad we got to visit with both of you when we did. I will never forget it. You have many, many wonderful memories to comfort you now and forever. Always remember the good times and the wonderful life you shared! We both were blessed to have such wonderful spouses for so many years! Jill will be missed.....Love, Joyce

Joyce Burrows - August 15, 2019 at 11:08 AM



“ Jillian’s courage and curiosity forged through well into her journey at Harbor Healthcare. We initiated many new “Montessori “ based activities by assessing Jillian’s need to learn, explore, and help others. Her beauty and zest for life shone through those sparking eyes. We all benefited from Dave’s historical information and admired his dedication to her. That 54 year love affair was apparent in all he did. It was a pleasure and a privilege to serve them both. Love to the entire Bradley family and special wishes for Dave in this next chapter of his life. Beth Seeds RN/ Harbor Healthcare

Beth Seeds - August 14, 2019 at 06:22 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jillian A. Bradley.



August 14, 2019 at 01:48 PM



“ Carnegie Learning purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Jillian A. Bradley.



Carnegie Learning - August 14, 2019 at 09:48 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Jillian A. Bradley.



August 14, 2019 at 09:14 AM