



Lillian Gustavson

May 31, 1922 - May 6, 2005

Lillian Gustavson, 82, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, died Friday, May 6, 2005, at Siloam Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Born May 31, 1922, in Brooklyn, New York, she was the daughter of Nicholas Casale and Lucy Marmo Casale. She had spent most of her life in Uniondale, New York and Riverhead, New York, where she was a children's librarian. She was of the Lutheran faith. She was preceded in death by her husband Randolph A. Gustavson, in 1982. Survivors include one son, Robert Gustavson and wife Pat of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; one daughter, Karen Reza and husband Bob of Syracuse, New York; seven grandchildren; and two great grandchildren. A memorial services will be 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 13, 2005, at Grace Episcopal Church, Siloam Springs, Arkansas. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Wasson Funeral Home, Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

Tribute Wall

CZ

“ *The librarian fondly known as "Mrs. G", who dressed like a friendly clown at library and town events, was a wonderful person. I was a latchkey kid whose mom worked long hours, so I spent a LOT of hours in the library every day after school. Mrs. G and I got very close and she always checked on me. She had me over to her home a couple times for lunch, and I even called her "grandma" with her blessing. She was a wonderful example of kindness and love, and she is - and will continue to be - remembered long after her passing. You are still loved, Mrs. G.*

Candice Z - November 06, 2025 at 03:35 PM

JB

“ *My daughter attended the Riverhead Library story hour with Mrs. G and we attended church in Aquebogue. I have lived in Florida for 8 1/2 years and receive The News Review paper and was saddened to read her obituary. She was a lovely "lady" and I will always remember her loving kindness to fellow churchgoers, and the children at the library. The world would be a better place if there were more people like Mrs. G. My deepest sympathy to her family.*

Julie Fink (formerly Julie Ball) - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

MS

“Mrs. G” as we fondly called your Mom, was one in a million. She was one of the kindest and most loving people I had the chance to know. When my husband Michael was recovering after surgery years ago, Mrs. G would stop by with books and homemade cookies, to chat and raise his spirits every Sunday after church. We live across the street from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. She always had a big smile and hug for me and my son Johnathan, who is now 19. We were lucky to know your Mom and my son was very fortunate to get to hear her famous story hours at the Riverhead Library. I have such wonderful memories of your Mom, especially when she would get dressed up in costume, for the Riverhead Country Fair story hours. We have missed her since the day she moved out west to be closer to you. She will always hold a special place in our hearts. We are so sorry for your loss. God Bless. Sheila Muller

Michael & Sheila Muller & son - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JB

“MRS. "G" WAS A VERY KIND & LOVING PERSON. WHEN I WAS A VERY YOUNG BOY, SHE USE TO LET ME RING THE BELL FOR STORYHOUR & HELP SET UP THE COOKIES & PUNCH. SHE ALWAYS TOLD ME HOW NICELY I DRESSED. SHE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. I USE TO TALK TO HER ALL THE TIME. WE BOTH LIKED NICE THINGS & GOOD SPELLING PERFUME. I HOPE SHE'LL FIND PEACE WITH GOD. LOVE ALWAYS, MARY & JAMEL BERRY

JAMEL BERRY & MARY BERRY - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

SA

“ I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Mrs. G...I think everyone in Riverhead that visited the library truly loved her..I know my family did. We spent many story hours with Mrs. G as my children grew up. I've missed her since she left Riverhead and will surely miss her more knowing she is no longer with us. My deepest condolences to her family. Her family was her life.

Sandy Austin - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

AH

“ Lillian and I worked together at the Riverhead Free Library a little over 10 years ago. I used to call her "Diamond Lil" which she liked. I was a new young librarian and she taught me alot of things. She and I used to go together and perform for schools for the summer reading club. It was our special time. Sometimes she would have me over for dinner and we would chat. She was a nice person and will be missed.

April Hatcher - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

AD

“ I am priveleged to be able to have met Mrs. G. I remember when I was younger always looking forward to going to story time just to see what Mrs. G had instore for us. She had a caring heart and shared it with everyone. I am glad to have been able to have met such a compassionate woman. Thank you so much for sharing her. I will always remember her.

Ashley Davidon - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

RL

“ Dear Family and Friends,

We were saddened to hear about your loss. Lillian was a friend to many and a grandma to many more.

We are thankful to have worked together.

*She gave her love and kindness. The computer is not working well for corrections.
Thank you.*

Riverhead Free Library - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

PA

“ *Lillian and I were contemporaries as well as co-workers and enjoyed talking with each other. In addition, my granddaughter, Annette, was in many story hours with Mrs. G. and always looked forward to them. She would try to repeat the stories "just like Mrs. G."*

Pat Tormey - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

KB

“ *Mrs. G was a special lady who truly enjoyed children....her love shined through to each and every child.....I missed her a great deal after my two children were in school and we didn't attend story hour anymore because they were both in school....but every chance I did have and go to the library with the children doing papers we would stop in and see her....we truly loved her with her warm hugs and sincere embracing....she was the bestshe was a true lady!!! You were lucky to have her in your life.....I am glad she was in mine.....Thank you Kathy Berezny*

Kathy Berezny - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

LW

“ I remember when Mrs. G began at the Riverhead Library. She helped instill a respect for reading in both my sons, now age 18 and 27. She helped develop their sense of belonging to a community by hugging them whenever she saw them. She was or is very special....is because she will live forever in our memories.

For the family, I thank you for sharing her

Louise C. Wilkinson - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

KC

“ MRS. G
WAS THE MOST LOVING PERSON.
EVERY TIME SHE WOULD WALK INTO THE BANK IT WOULD
PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE.
SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE TO LISTEN AND GIVE GREAT FEED
BACK.
I WILL ALWAYS MISS HER.

KAREN A CALABRO - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

LF

“ Lillian Gustavson gave her all in whatever she did for her church, library, town, family and friends.

She loved to be around others and attend concerts, praise the Lord Jesus and play the piano. Many of us at the library and church shared meals with her and loved her cooking and zest for living. We were sad that she missed Randy so very much and feel blessed that her wishes are complete and they are together having a party, now.

Many families still ask about her and had their children attend her story times, too. We have a couch here in her honor.

I was new to the area 20 years ago and she took me under her wing.

She was a strict believer and strong in her convictions.

We traveled to Mass. and Penn. together and attended functions together. She came to our wedding with our friend, Lillian Bruno. She cried often upon hearing music that touched her in some way wherever she was.

The children loved her and we were all amazed at her storytelling capabilities.

I was her supervisor for one year and her friend, too. We haven't agreed all the time and the longer I knew her the more, I spoke up. My husband, Joe, and daughter, Jaclyn, now 10 years old knew we were very close. Jaclyn attended her storytimes on Sundays and special crafts. She heard her at the Country Fair, too. I felt like family. We felt like family.

She loved us and the whole town.

We were close to her daughter Karen, and their family for some years. I sat for the kids on a moment's notice. They are all such good kids, growing up and now in college and sprouting.

Their Dad, Martin and I grew up in the same town in Springfield, NJ. We moved to Manorville and they did, too.

I think it was a God coincidence. The kids and Karen and he are very sad. I called Marty and spoke with him.

She and her husband were most proud of both their children and spoke of them and their accomplishments with pride.

She loved being with her family and talked about her brothers, too and how they treated her like a princess. We both have Italian heritage and that brought us closer, as well.

I have been telling people all week and you could see it on their faces that she will be missed. We are sorry.

We will welcome her back to L.I.

Peace and continued blessings.

Thanks.

The Las Sita's

Laura La Sita & Family - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JL

“ *Bob & Pat-*

Although we did not know your mom, Bob, we just wanted to send our condolences and our thoughts and prayers. And we know this must be an especially hard time because of Mother's Day.

Blessings,

Marie

Joe & Marie LeGrand - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

EL

“ *Miss Lillian made my stay here a little nicer. I will miss her.*

Eula Layne - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

GH

“ *Miss Lillian was always a sweet, happy person.*

Gloria Hall - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

BL

“ I will miss "Miss" Lillian. I loved seeing her happy face and the joy she had after playing the piano.

She was a very sweet person.

Beth Lavey - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

DF

“ Bob and Pat, just saw in the paper about Ms. Lillian. She was such a joy to meet in the hall when I visited my mother-in-law and then my dad. She always had a smile on her face and a hug and kiss for me. She played the piano beautifully. She will be missed by all whose lives' she has touched. May God's peace and grace be yours through the coming days and weeks. Ed and Joyce Windham

Darrell Fletcher - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

JM

“ Lillian was the roommate for 3 years of my mother Matta Jean McDonald at Siloam Springs Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. I enjoyed listening to her play "Lillian's Song" on the piano. I always looked forward to her greeting-"How ya doin' sweetheart?" I would always get a kiss and then she would say, "Boy, oh boy." That was the Miss Lillian I knew and loved and I will miss hearing those words.

Jean Ann Moles - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

FR

“ *Bob and Pat,
I am thankful for the long life of Bob's Mother, although I did not know her. This is nevertheless an opportunity to remember my own Mother, and to sympathize with you in the loss of your very special person.
Please know that you are in my prayers and thoughts.
Peace,
Fred Reed*

Fred - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

SM

“ *Your mother was a wonderful lady that always brought a smile to my face. She was so caring to my mother. Their friendship over the last three years is one that they are probably talking about right now.
That wonderful smile will be missed.*

Susie Montgomery - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM

SA

“ *We care and are thinking about you.*

Sue and Milfred Anglin - September 19, 2012 at 11:33 AM