

JILLEAN BURRILL AUSTIN OBITUARY

CENTER BRUNSWICK — Jillean “Jill” B. Austin. God saw Jill was getting tired, and a cure was not to be. So he put his arms around her and whispered, “Come with me.” Jillean “Jill” (Burrill) Austin of Springbrook Road, died peacefully Sunday, December 22, 2002 at her home, surrounded by her loving and dedicated family, of complications from rapid ALS (Lou Gehrig’s) disease.

Born July 25, 1948 in the Town of Mohawk, Jill was the daughter of the late Walter S. and Bette (Gleed) Burrill, and the wife for 22 years of her loving husband William “Bill” L. Austin of Center Brunswick, who survives. Jillean and Bill were married July 19, 1980.

Jill was a graduate of Mohawk High School, and earned a degree in hotel and restaurant management from Paul Smith’s College.

Some of the employment opportunities Jill enjoyed were her time with the Holiday Inns of America, as a licensed real estate agent for the Bob Howard Real Estate Company, as the “Salad Lady” in the Brittonkill Central School District’s Middle and High Schools, and as the sous chef at Brunswick Greens Restaurant.

Additionally, she worked as the chairperson for the Rensselaer County Board of Elections in the Brunswick District, she assisted the Brunswick Town Tax Collector, and was presently serving as the church secretary at Hope United Methodist Church in Eagle Mills.

Jill was an active member of Hope United Methodist Church, a Trustee and member of the Brunswick Historical Society, a life member and recording secretary of the Center Brunswick Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary, and drafted the Auxiliary’s 50th year Gala Program in 1997. She served as the Company’s historian, the Neighborhood Chairperson and Leader of the Hudson Valley Girl Scouts, a Committee member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 537 in Brunswick, and founder, editor and publisher of the monthly “Boy Scout Bugle” newsletter, a member of the Fort Crailo Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution, the Capital District Genealogy Society, the National Palentines to America, the Austins of America Genealogical Society, the Burrill Association of America and the Albany-Tula Alliance organization.

Mrs. Austin was best known as Jill to her friends and for her unique giggle. To her family she was known as “the family historian” and at the time of her death was working on lineage for membership into The Society of Mayflower Descendants & Founding Fathers of Colonial

America. Jill’s interests, of course, included her family and being a stay-at-home mom to her five children in the log home she and Bill designed and built. She enjoyed gardening and canning vegetables, cooking, playing the organ, old black & white movies, her passion for genealogy, 1700-1800’s American history, synchronized swimming, waterskiing, snowmobiling, and she loved being by the seashores of New England.

In addition to her husband, Jill is survived by her cherished, loving children: son David W. C. Austin of Center Brunswick, daughter Mary Ann Donnelly and husband Paul of Eagle Mills, daughter Michele McAvoy and husband Kevin of Menands, stepsons Eric Austin of Troy, and Kenneth Austin of Mechanicville, brother James E. Burrill, M.D. of Lincoln, RI, niece to Charles and Jane (Gleed) Cappelino of Hoosick Falls, cousin to Linda Witham of Medfield, MA, Cathy her dear friend since 3rd grad, Myra, Cindy and Vesta, and a 45+ years friendship with pen-pal Kathy Mertens in England, and many cousins.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church in Eagle Mills, with Revs. Dave Martin and Dr. Denise Stringer officiating. There will be no calling. Jill’s wishes make a tissue donation to University of Vermont ALS Research Center and the Albany Medical Centers Anatomical Gift Program.

Contributions at Jill’s request, instead of flowers, may be made to the Worship Committee c/o Hope United Methodist Church, 566 Brunswick Road, Troy, NY 12180 or to the ALS Regional Center, St. Peter’s Hospital, 315 South Manning Blvd., Albany, NY 12208 in memory of Jillean “Jill” Austin.

Jill and her family which to thank everyone for their most welcomed cards, notes, support, friendship and, most of all, the prayers on Jill’s behalf. A special thanks and our gratitude go to Community Hospice of Rensselaer County and the ALS Center at St. Peter’s Hospital for their loving care and family support. Jill was fortunate to be able to say her good-byes during her illness. She thanks God for this last pain-free, challenging journey.

Service details are under the direction of the Howard B. Tate & Son Funeral Home Inc., 2237 NY-7, located in Raymertown.

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