



## Jill Braden Lea

June 19, 1952 - January 13, 2021

The family of Jill Braden Lea wants to honor the life she lived by holding a memorial service filled with fun and great memories of her. It will be at Pray Funeral Home Gardens on Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Dress casual (Jamaican theme because Jill loved Jamaica) and bring stories of your adventures and memories of Jill you can share with everyone. The service will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone, or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Jill's tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer (or Media from your smart phone).

If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Capital Area Humane Society, or Paws With A Cause. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories of Jill on her Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

Jill Braden Lea, a sweet and generous woman, died peacefully, surrounded by her family at her home in Charlotte on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at the age of 68. Jill was born June 19, 1952, in Charlotte, the daughter of Alonzo "Sparky" and Nora Braden. Growing up in the care of her uncle and aunt, Frank and Kay Braden, her cousins Ron, Jim and Terry became her big

brothers. She attended Charlotte High School before moving to California for her final year of school. Jill married Donald "Zauner" Lea on May 9, 1987, and the two enjoyed 33 years of marriage. Their marriage built on a devotion to each other was an example for others to follow. Throughout the years, Zauner and Jill loved to travel both abroad and locally spending time outdoors camping and fishing. There were many trips to Negril, Jamaica, that helped develop a deeply loving and tight-knit group of friends. Other destinations included numerous trips to Seattle to visit family. Jill will be remembered as a fiercely loyal protector of her family and friends. Her loving and sweet spirit will always remind us of her devotion to all of those in her life. She had a caring personality, and would do anything for a friend in need. In her spare time, she enjoyed antiquing and yard sales, tending her flower garden, and picking stones on camping trips to the beach. Jill worked for The Gallery in downtown Charlotte before developing a framing business in her own home. She most recently worked at the Passport Call Center through Peckham Industries in Lansing until her retirement in 2010. Jill will be missed by countless friends and family, who will always remember that "to know Jill was to love Jill."

Jill is survived by her husband, Donald "Zauner" Lea; siblings, Judy Braden and Jim (Julie) Braden; life-long close cousins, Jim Braden and Terry (Sue) Braden; and niece, Jamie Gurski. She was predeceased by her brother, Jack Braden; cousin, Ron Braden; and her parents.

Friends are encouraged to support Jill's family at visitation on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 5-8:00 PM at Pray Funeral Home with mask, group capacity, and distancing guidelines observed. A private memorial service will be held with webcasting to take place at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, January 20. A larger public gathering will be held when restrictions are eased. The family gives special thanks to Hospice of Lansing for their wonderful care. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Capital Area Humane Society, or Paws With A Cause. Friends and family are encouraged to share memories

of Jill on her Tribute Page at [www.PrayFuneral.com](http://www.PrayFuneral.com). The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 19. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Memorial Service

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Pray Funeral Home Gardens  
401 W. Seminary St.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Jill Braden Lea



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - January 20, 2021 at 10:30 AM

SR

*This is from Margo. That was an excellent memorial service. it was inspirational just as Jill always was. everyone who spoke was so eloquent. this was a service to remember. I am now ready as ever to come back to Charlotte Michigan and connect with this wonderful family*

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**Scott Ross** - May 08, 2021 at 11:59 AM



“ Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Jill Braden Lea



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - January 18, 2021 at 08:05 PM

KM

“ *Zauner and Terry; I am so saddened to hear of Jill's passing. I remember her best from grade school: she was so fast running through that jump rope, it was hard to tag her! Such a sweet, sweet girl...and thank you both and Jill for being such caring, helpful friends to Mark. We will never forget. Kay Lynn Mahar*

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**Kay Lynn Mahar** - January 25, 2021 at 12:13 PM

JH

“ *Dear Don and Family, and Terry and Family,*

*I knew Jill to be an amazing and steadfast friend. Jill was there for my brother Mark throughout his adult life with food, friendship, and emotional support. Jill opened her heart and, without judgment, bounteously shared her time and compassion. I will always be grateful to Jill for her ability to love and give so generously. Jill was a remarkable person in her ability to understand and care for others. Week after week, year after year Jill treated my brother with so much kindness and thoughtfulness. Thank you, Jill.*

*Don, I know that you have lost the irreplaceable love of your life, Jill. My deepest heartfelt sympathy and prayers are extended to you and to all of those who will miss her so much.*

*Judith (Wehr) Hooper*

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**Judith Hooper** - January 23, 2021 at 04:32 PM

MH

“*“The Little General” my brother, Mark, called her. But when I was little, Jill was like a princess or an angel. Jill had an unusual gift. Whenever you saw her and she smiled at you and asked how you were, it made you feel like you were the only person in the world. She made you feel special without even trying. She loved all of us and, in turn, was loved by us all.*

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**Mary Huver** - January 23, 2021 at 12:57 PM

JB

“*I truly felt it was an honor and a privilege to be a part of Zauner and Jill's life over the last several years. The level of commitment and loyalty that Zauner showed in caring for Jill is exemplary. To have a love so true is an example of what dedication is and I will forever be grateful to see such love in action.*

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**Janette Burzan** - January 21, 2021 at 03:35 PM

EA

“*We still love you, Jill. You were genuinely loving and lovable, generous to others, trippy, feisty, and good fun. You will be held close, cushioned in our hearts.*  
*Jumbo Aloha, cuz Earl*

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**Earl** - January 20, 2021 at 06:31 PM



“*Jill was a beautiful woman. My love and sympathy to all. Blessings,*  
*Mary Cheney*

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**Mary Cheney** - January 20, 2021 at 02:00 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jill Braden Lea.*



January 19, 2021 at 02:35 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jill Braden Lea.*



January 19, 2021 at 10:39 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



**Earl** - January 18, 2021 at 10:56 PM



“ 60 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - January 18, 2021 at 08:03 PM



“ 4 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Earl - January 18, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ Zauner, we are so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Jill was such a sweet soul, so easygoing and fun-loving. We cherish the time we spent with her and the memories we made over the years.  
*Bill & Deb Keehne*

Deb Keehne - January 18, 2021 at 12:08 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Jill Braden Lea.*



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January 17, 2021 at 12:46 PM



“ *Jill and Zauner were our neighbors and close friends (in addition to being distant family relation) growing up. My brother and I loved to run across the road to visit with them. Jill in the yard with her flowers, Zauner on his lawnmower, Zoe (their beloved Rottweiler) playing in the yard. We loved it there and loved them.*

*Jill was the kindest spirit I've ever met. Soft-spoken and petite but still a little feisty when warranted, and always so kind and caring. She will be missed by everyone lucky enough to know her and love her in this life. ❤️*

*-Lexi Davis*

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**Alexis Davis** - January 16, 2021 at 05:40 PM



“ *Zauner, We are so sorry to hear of Jill's passing. Our sincerest sympathies. Jack and Jan Page.*

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**Jan Page** - January 16, 2021 at 12:46 PM



“ *zauner, my heart felt condolences. bruce attwell*

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**bruce frederick attwell** - January 15, 2021 at 10:23 PM

AR

“ Jill and I were both the shortest in our class. We always joked when we were put up front of the volley ball net in Gym. What was Miss Harms thinking like we could Spike the ball up there. Ha. We both worked at the same factory till I went to the State Complex. Don I heard you were the best at taking care of her, but I knew you wouldn't have it any other way. May she rest in peace. Gonna miss my short friend.

Alana Bigger Root - January 15, 2021 at 08:07 PM

RT

“ Our most sincere condolences. Wishing you peace Zauner to bring you comfort, courage to face the days ahead and loving memories to forever hold in your heart. Our hearts go out to you and your family. Although we don't know exactly what to say, we want you to know that we are with you in thought and wish you comfort and peace.  
Ron (Zeb) & Judy Trausch



Ron (Zeb) & Judy Trausch - January 15, 2021 at 09:25 AM



“ Thoughts and Prayers, Don, Jill was the light in your life, that was obvious when ever you talked with everyone. You all had a very ruff go the past few years, and you were a champion through it all. My heart goes out to you Don. May she rest in peace, she will always be in your heart.

Aaron Maurer - January 15, 2021 at 08:42 AM

MM

“ *Michael & Stacey Mroczkowski purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Jill Braden Lea.*



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**Michael & Stacey Mroczkowski** - January 15, 2021 at 08:27 AM

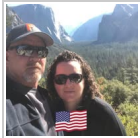
EM

“ *So sorry to hear of Jill's passing. Jill was truly a beautiful person inside and out.*

*Dave and Elaine Martin*

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**Elaine Martin** - January 15, 2021 at 06:51 AM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



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**Michael Braden** - January 14, 2021 at 07:47 PM

JK

“ *Don,  
We are so sorry to hear of Jill's passing. She was a sweet lady who made the best chocolate chip cookies I have ever had. She was blessed to have such a loving and devoted husband, your "Jill" will be missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Hugs,  
Joy and Steve Ketchum*

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**Joy Ketchum** - January 14, 2021 at 07:43 PM



“ *Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the family of Jill Braden Lea.*



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January 14, 2021 at 06:35 PM



“ *So sad to hear of Jill's passing. We were both in band & she was such an awesome friend, always helping & a little mischievous too. Rest in peace. Love, Debbie & Randy Kelley*

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**Debbie kelley** - January 14, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ *So sad to hear of Jill's passing. I knew Jill from High School at Charlotte. Jill was this tiny burst of energy in band playing flute and piccolo. This tiny girl with this tiny little piccolo. She was always fun to be with.*

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**Gary Wells** - January 14, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ *Chuck Brandon lit a candle in memory of Jill Braden Lea*



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**Chuck Brandon** - January 14, 2021 at 04:08 PM