



## Linda Ann McFarland

August 29, 1958 - June 23, 2021

Linda Ann McFarland was 62 years old when she passed away on June 23rd at 12:25 PM in Yale New Haven hospital. She had grown up in Wallingford before moving to Hamden with her brother and sister, John and Mary Ellen. Her parents, John R. (Jack)McFarland and Jeanne Guarino McFarland, raised them and worked two jobs to afford the best education they could for their kids. Her aunt Gloria Cardillo continues the Italian side of their family as she watches over her great nieces and nephews. Linda leaves behind her three children, Leandro, Oliver and Samantha. Linda was a dedicated mother, fighting for her son Oliver's education as she navigated his diagnosis of Autism. She sought out upcoming programs as well as educated him on her own throughout his later years. Her passion for teaching dates back to her days at Rutgers University, where she had her career of Dean of Students of Arts. She has shared many amazing experiences with her coworkers, including organizing art shows, heading double major programs within the department, and telling bands to get on stage for her students in the Rutgers gym. After her retirement, she was a stay at home mom in Cheshire, from Dean of Students to a Girl Scout Leader and supporter of last minute school projects. She was an amazing mother. Linda was diagnosed with breast cancer on September 2nd, 2014. She fought through chemo, blood transfusions and radiation for seven years relentlessly. She always remained positive, even in her last days. Linda was a patient, kind, caring, and thoughtful woman. She would bring little gifts to her nurses at Yale without a

second thought, even when she was in pain herself. Her presence always brought light to those around her, she will be dearly missed by her friends and family.

In light of the circumstances, in place of flowers we would like to encourage donations to the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, where 100% of donations go to breast cancer patients to aid in paying their bills. Their website can be found here: <https://bcef.org/>

Her funeral will be taking place at St. Rita's Church at 10 AM on July 7th. All friends are encouraged to come, as long as those who are not vaccinated can wear a mask. Burial in All Saints Cemetery. Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Ave, Hamden is handling the arrangements. To leave an online condolence please visit [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com)

# Cemetery Details

## All Saints Cemetery

700 Middletown Ave.  
North Haven, CT

# Previous Events

## Funeral service

JUL 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Rita Church  
1620 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT

# Tribute Wall

MA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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Marie - August 25, 2021 at 09:44 PM

JF

“ Mary Ellen & Family,

*I recall Linda as a very young lady on Harmon St. As I recall feisty and full of energy! The accolades and accomplishments speak for themselves! She was admired and loved and rightfully so. What a wonderful legacy she leaves behind! My sincerest condolences to Linda's children and to all of you in the family! May Linda now RIP in our Heavenly Father's Arms!!*

*Jim Foley  
Myrtle Beach, SC*

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James (Jim) Foley - July 09, 2021 at 07:10 AM

YA

“ *Linda was initially my boss at Rutgers and then became a friend. She had unparalleled patience and support for both staff and students. Her kindness and gentleness guided many. We share a birthdate and remained connected even when we lived in different states. Her face and demeanor exuded only joy when she spoke of her children. She was a beautiful woman and person and will be greatly missed.*

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Yvette Allen-Lomaro - July 07, 2021 at 04:09 PM

CL

“ I was fortunate to have Linda in my life while I worked my first professional position at Rutgers. I learned SO much from this kind and loving woman, never really feeling like she was my supervisor, instead she was an instant friend. How she loved to organize and plan...making me a book to help me stay organized as I planned my wedding. Her small, kind gestures are the essence of exactly who she was.

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**Carol Hermes Lyman** - July 05, 2021 at 09:40 AM

JC

“ My dear friend, so many memories... your house, my house, backyards, dolls, 45 records, St. Rita's, Owenego... friends for life, I will miss you so!!

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**Jeanette Compton** - July 03, 2021 at 01:31 PM

ES

“ While I was a student at Rutgers University I knew "who" Linda was because she was renowned among my fellow students for the impact she had on campus life, but I would later come to know her well when she and I became close colleagues at Rutgers. Linda as a colleague, as a mentor to many, and as a student affairs professional advising students in various capacities, shared a warmth and caring and dedication like no other that has remained with me and has influenced my entire adult and professional life. In her work, Linda's empathy and her caring for people, as individuals, always manifest itself in the time she devoted to understanding what others need, to engaging herself to see value what they were trying to accomplish, and in doing her best to help them meet those needs or steering their efforts in a more suitable direction. Most of all I'll remember Linda for how she demonstrated, time and again, how one's own actions, however small or large, could have profound impacts on the lives of others, and that it is incumbent on each of us to do all we can to help those around us.



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**Edmund M Scheer** - July 03, 2021 at 12:10 PM

RD

Linda was a very dear friend. She was attentive to everyone 's needs around her, and with a smile would help me accomplish my own tasks when so busy with hers. That is the way we develop a friendship at Rutgers when we both worked for the Student Centers. Then Linda got married and left her career to care for her family. Although she had some challenges throughout her life, she was courageous and strong until the last hour. She dearly cared and loved her family. I will always remember her for her kindness and desire to help. My sincere condolences to Leo, Oliver and Samantha!

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**Renee Douge** - July 05, 2021 at 12:16 PM

MN

*I believe we were second cousins, has our dads were first cousins, Bill (Bud) Bendel. I met your parents at a restaurant I worked at and they ask me if i knew Bud and Dorothy Bendel, I said they were my parents and we all laughed when they told me we were related.*

*Very sorry for your loss, I wished we all could of known each other more. May Linda rest in peace and may her children and siblings find comfort in her memories.*

*Mary Bendel Nepton*

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**Mary Nepton** - July 07, 2021 at 08:39 AM

MM

“*Linda was the middle child of a hard working Father, and "stay at home" Mother. She grew up in Spring Glen, the same section of Hamden were our Dad was raised. We were surrounded by neighbors who were more like family. Linda stayed connected to her lifelong friends, Jeanette "Nettie" Lucibelli, and Christine Fitzgerald. She enjoyed summers in Litchfield with our Aunt Helen, and visiting our Aunts in NYC. We all had deep gratitude for all our Aunts & Uncles, and their contribution to exposing us to culture, travel & sports. Linda loved art museums, ballet, opera & film noir. She was proud of her Irish/Italian heritage, and was a supporter of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum in Hamden, CT.*

*She graduated from SCSU, and received her Master's Degree from URI. Her first position was at Rutgers University, where she served as Assistant Dean of Student Activities. Then became Associate Dean, and finally Dean of Arts & Music. She felt her greatest role was that of "Mother Lioness" to her 3 little cubs, Leo, Oliver & Samantha. She was also staff writer for Haute Doll Magazine. She loved gardening, art museums, tearooms & tea parties, and delighted in taking her children to Essex train museum & Mystic Seaport, just to name two...*

*She was passionate about children's welfare & an animal rescue advocate. She adores her 2 cats, Sullivan & Buzz Lightyear. Linda never met a stranger. Her legacy is her compassion & empathy for all beings. We could all truly benefit by her example.*

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**M.E. McFarland** - July 03, 2021 at 03:42 AM

SK

*Maryellen, I was so sad to learn today about Linda's death. I remember her as such a warm, sweet person when we were all growing up on Harmon Street. It's clear from your beautiful reflection on her life that wherever she went she touched people with her generosity and empathy. Please accept my deep sympathy for your loss.*

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**Sharon Smith Klots** - July 05, 2021 at 09:33 PM

PL

*Mary Ellen, so sad to learn about Linda's passing. So was always so kind & sweet. A true lady in every sense of the word. My condolences to you & your family! A perfect representation of all things Great about the Glen!*

*Packy*

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**Packy Lillis** - July 08, 2021 at 12:10 PM

SK

*ME,  
I was so sorry to hear about your sisters passing. When I saw the picture of Linda, my heart was so heavy yet my memories of her are filled with feelings of joy and delight.  
I remember the McFarland sisters  
from our days together at the College Union- both of you so smart, so energetic and so radiant !  
It has been a very sad time for so many and I hope the memory of Linda's spirit and smile will comfort you in the coming days.  
I will keep you and Linda in my thoughts and prayers. Be safe, be well and take care of yourself.  
Stan Kapinos*

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**Stan Kapinos** - July 12, 2021 at 11:43 PM

TB

“ I was devastated to hear the news about Linda. We have been friends for over 30 years. As you know, we met each other working at Rutgers and have been friends ever since. One of my favorite memories is our performances in the Faculty & Staff Follies. She is truly one of the nicest people I have ever met. She was kind, giving, smart, beautiful and SO creative. My deepest sympathy to all of you. She will be missed.

Love,  
Tracy

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**Tracy Ballas** - July 02, 2021 at 03:19 PM

SC

“ I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Linda's family. I had the great pleasure of working with Linda at Rutgers during our time together in Student Affairs. I have so many fond memories and will always be grateful to Linda for allowing me to stay with her when I first moved from Indiana to New Jersey! I was truly grateful for her hospitality.

*I will always remember Linda as our co-host for the student affairs Faculty Staff Follies! She and Ed Scheer were dynamic hosts Linda!*

*Linda was so smart, warm, talented and funny. I will always remember her smile and laugh.*

*Rest in peace, Linda. You will be missed!*

*Sincerely, Sharon Cocuzza*

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**Sharon Cocuzza** - July 02, 2021 at 02:55 PM