



Leslie J. (Rinaldo) Lewis Matteson

November 25, 1945 - December 4, 2018

NEW HARTFORD - Leslie J. (Rinaldo) Lewis Matteson, age 73, passed away peacefully, in a sun filled room on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at the Siegenthaler Center with her family by her side.

Born in Utica on November 25, 1945, Leslie was the daughter of the late Frederick A. and Helen A. (Giglio) Rinaldo. She was a graduate of New Hartford High School/Class of 1963. She furthered her education at the Utica School of Commerce where she earned a degree in Business and Computer Science, an achievement that made her so proud! At one time she was married to William "Bill" Lewis and to that relationship came the blessing of two wonderful daughters. For the last 40 years she has shared a relationship with Frank Matteson.

Leslie was employed by Utica Mutual as a secretary/receptionist. She then accepted a position at Turning Stone Casino as a gaming dealer, and one of the first round of employees hired to open the doors of the new establishment. Later in life, Leslie cared for those in need of companionship, a calling that required and complemented her compassionate nature. She had the uncanny ability to reach people in deep and positive ways. She truly lived life through simple pleasures like taking the time to talk with friends and family, cooking, writing poetry and stories, spending time outdoors, and exploring new areas. She also loved to travel. Leslie completely embraced the "life's better when laughing" philosophy which was in sync with her quick wit and wicked sense of humor. A lover of music, she appreciated all genres, especially Willie

Nelson who she met in person, a memorable moment in her life. Leslie was a sprightly spirit blessed with a sensitive soul. She cared for others, particularly those oppressed or struggling in life. She was an advocate for the YWCA and was so supportive of their mission. She maintained a balance of mind and body through her love of yoga, reiki, meditation, and tai chi. She believed in and benefitted from the power of energy and holistic healing. She was in tune with the universe, yet powerfully prayerful and very spiritual. She loved Fr. Joe and felt at home at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. She was grateful for the very special people who graced her life and loved her unconditionally: her daughters, grandchildren, sister, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She held each of them in her heart in a unique way.

Leslie is survived by her partner, Frank; her daughters and their loves, Kristen and Kent Rasmussen, and Melissa Wagner and fiancé Michael Noonan; her grandchildren, Brittany Philbrook; Emily Rasmussen, Lukas Rasmussen; Jeffrey Wagner; and Katarina, Dylan, and Olivia Lewis; great-grandson, Quincy Philbrook; and sister and brother-in-law, Cynthia and Donald Stevener. Always close to her heart was the memory of her sister, Jacqueline Rinaldo; her brother and sister-in-law, Vernon and Catherine Rinaldo; and her beloved nephew, David F. Rinaldo. She also leaves her nephews and nieces, especially Karyn Vitagliano who was not only her niece, but her goddaughter who started her nickname Aunt Shish, and Gail (Seminaro) Williamson with whom she shared a sister-like relationship; nephews, Derek, Steven, Scott, and Michael Rinaldo, and their families; great-nieces, great-nephews, and many beloved cousins including Lynette Cunningham, Rick Fowler along with many other cousins who shared her life and monthly dinner gatherings, and her numerous lifelong friends who journeyed with her.

The family extends their sincere thanks to the staffs of the MVHS at St. Elizabeth Medical Center ER and 3rd Floor, and the Regional Cancer Center; Stacey Jaskolka/NP, Dr. Francis Constantine, Dr. Christopher Max; and the Siegenthaler Center for providing a peaceful, protective environment and empathetic angels who played an important part in caring for Leslie with

dignity and grace.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Leslie's Memorial Service and Celebration of Life which will be held on Friday morning, December 14th at 11:00 at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes where her Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Joseph Salerno. The family will receive visitors at the conclusion of Mass. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Evelyn's House, a program of Kids Oneida, online at <https://www.kidsoneida.org/programs/evelyn-s-house/> or the YWCA online at <http://ywcamv.org>; envelopes will also be available at the service. Inurnment will take place in Calvary Cemetery at the convenience of the family.

Long Time Sun by Snatam Kaur

[Verse 1]

May the long time sun
Shine upon you
All love surround you

And the pure light
Within you
Guide your way on
Guide your way on

[Verse 2]

May the long time sun
Shine upon you
All love surround you

And the pure light

Within you
Guide your way on
Guide your way on
Guide your way on
Guide your way on

[Verse 3]

May the long time sun
Shine upon you
All love surround you

And the pure light
Within you
Guide your way on
Guide your way on
Guide your way on
Guide your way on
Guide your way on
Your way on
Way on
Way on
Your way on
Guide your way on

<https://youtu.be/T1D3ejwQiVg>

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

2407 Oneida Street
Utica, NY 13501
(315) 735-2727

Tribute Wall

RP

“ So sorry to hear about Leslie She and I were the best of friends in high school It seems impossible that she’s gone. My sincere condolences to her family I remember many many good times we had together



rosanne putreli - December 12, 2018 at 09:47 AM

RP

Rosanne Putrelo correction

rosanne putrelo - December 12, 2018 at 09:49 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Leslie J. (Rinaldo) Lewis Matteson.



December 10, 2018 at 07:23 PM

PK

“ Dear Kristen and Kent, Melissa, Frank, and Family,

I was saddened to hear about your loss. Leslie was one of a kind; funny and sensitive, generous and full of life. The short time I knew her we shared much laughter. As she has brought you all together, hold hands, embrace , and love one another. Prayers and love to you all.

p.s. Les, I will never forget the time years ago when you called and told us to turn the TV to a certain channel. We did, and after seeing the lady wearing "The Veil" we laughed for days!!!!

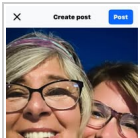
Thank you for the best gift you could have given...your love of laughter.

Paul Karges - December 10, 2018 at 12:20 PM

GW

The three of us never stopped laughing. I remember that well.

Gail Seminario Williamson - December 11, 2018 at 10:53 PM



“ *Sending my heartfelt smpathy to Kristen Melissa and family.Sending prayers and hugs. Lucy Spina*

Lucy Spina - December 07, 2018 at 11:37 AM

MS

“ *Mary Shulsky lit a candle in memory of Leslie J. (Rinaldo) Lewis Matteson*



Mary Shulsky - December 07, 2018 at 09:55 AM

FF

“ *Rip cousin I'm praying for you and the rest of your family.*
Frank and JoMarie Faccioli

Frank Faccioli - December 07, 2018 at 08:33 AM

SM

“ *Shirley Mario lit a candle in memory of Leslie*
J. (Rinaldo) Lewis Matteson



Shirley Mario - December 07, 2018 at 02:25 AM

SM

My heart is very sad right now but I'm remembering all the fun we had as children with Gail at camp swimming and long walks to Sylvan Beach and we weren't supposed to go over the bridge but we did.. We had wonderful beautiful times together. Will miss you my cousin. My sympathy to your beautiful daughter's and grandchildren and your sister Cynthia. May you rest in peace. Love Shirley.

Shirley Mario - December 07, 2018 at 02:52 AM

MG

My sympathy to all of Leslie's family. She was a very special person I enjoyed our monthly cousins dinner conversations with her I will miss her very much RIP Leslie I will never forget you

maria giglio - December 07, 2018 at 12:17 PM

FS

Our sympathies to Leslie's family and all those that she touched. She will be missed by all.

Frank and Carol Stagliano - December 08, 2018 at 10:37 AM

KS

Cindy and family, I am so sorry to learn of Leslie's passing. I remember her laughter and energy (and of course that great smile). Her presence on the porch always livened up the conversation!

.....
Kathy Hernon Stimpson

Kathy Hernon Stimpson - December 08, 2018 at 02:04 PM

PS

I will miss my long time friend I'm sure she will look down on us all and will rest in peace now she always comforted sooo many relatives and friends now she can rest rest sweet and humble soul

paulene santino - December 09, 2018 at 07:41 AM

TW

My sympathy to Leslie's family and to all who knew her. I have so many fond memories of Leslie when we were in grade school together. A wonderful mother and friend.

Teddy Weed - December 09, 2018 at 11:25 PM

LY

Our sincere sympathy to all of Leslie's family. Rest In Peace cousin. Lorraine & Mike Yozzo

Lorraine Yozzo - December 10, 2018 at 08:10 AM

BL

In our young time, Leslie was my partner, my mate, and the mother of two of the most beautiful women I know; Kristen and Melissa. Leslie's passing reminds me that some of us miss the blessings were are given in this short life, but I was fortunate enough to rediscover a huge one several years ago when Leslie and I reconnected. In addition to our precious daughters with crazy cool families; sister Cindy (who will remain my sister for life); and my incredible neices and nephew, Lynette, Karyn and Rick; we, as well as those who have passed are family because of Leslie. Namaste Leslie, may the long time sun shine on you forever.

Bill Lewis - December 11, 2018 at 01:32 PM

JM

My cousin , my first playmate, my childhood memories of sleep overs at the house in the country. You are gone but never forgotten. I'll miss our chats on FB, rest in peace my sweet cousin.

Joanne MacDonald - December 13, 2018 at 05:58 PM