



## Ms. Lillian "Lilly" Phillips

August 19, 1990 - November 29, 2021

Lillian (Lilly) Phillips, 31, of Pittsfield, died at her home November 29, 2021, leaving behind many loved ones forever touched by her gentle spirit, natural wisdom and quiet perseverance.

Among those with whom she shared her life were her loving mother Joan and her brother Walker, whose life-long bond with Lilly was an inspiration to anyone who knew them.

Born August 19, 1990, daughter of Joan (Lugert) Phillips and the late Paul F. Phillips, Lilly was highly intelligent, yet always humble, excelling in most everything she did, academically, musically and artistically. A pianist, poet, painter and philosopher, Lilly was diligent and self-motivated in her pursuit of knowledge and meaning, challenging assumptions and never willing to leave important questions unanswered.

Lilly earned many academic awards during her public-school years, including first place in the citywide spelling bee in the 8th grade. She was one of two fifth grade students from Pittsfield selected to attend a week at DART, an arts immersion program sponsored by Tanglewood. Lilly graduated from Taconic High School in 2008, the first student from that school to be allowed to spend her senior year full time at Berkshire Community College, taking courses in engineering, physics and calculus.

Lily was always a strong swimmer and played softball in high school. But the only time her competitive prowess really emerged was when she was challenging her mother, father, brother and others in a game of Scrabble, Boggle, chess and other board contests. She almost always won, but never boasted.

Beyond those achievements in her younger life, perhaps the most lasting lesson Lilly left this world was the importance of taking the reality of mental illness out of the darkness and into the full light. Lilly endured many years of serious mental health issues, but never succumbed to self-pity, instead focusing on ways she could help others, even in the depths of her own struggle. She reached out, listened and offered her own caring insights.

Besides her mother Joan and brother Walker, Lilly is survived by many loving aunts, uncles and cousins.

Calling hours for Lilly will be Saturday, December 11, from Noon to 2:00 pm at the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made via the funeral home to the Berkshire Music School, where she studied piano for eight years.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Roche Funeral Home  
120 Main Street  
P.O. Box 152  
Lenox, MA 01240  
(413) 637-0699  
eroche120fh@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall

VK

“ I remember Lily as one of my high school advisees while she attended BCC. She was polite, intelligent and kind. So sorry to hear of her passing.

Vicki Kane

Vicki Kane - December 09, 2021 at 12:23 PM

RO

“ Lilly was in my year at high school. We shared several classes and although we didn't know each other well, Lilly was always kind to me. She was quiet and thoughtful, and I'm really sad to hear of her passing. My thoughts go out to her family.

Robert - December 09, 2021 at 08:04 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ms. Lillian "Lilly" Phillips.



December 08, 2021 at 11:19 AM

AL

“Dearest and sweet Lilly. You were the first friend to me moving into this new place. Taking me with open arms and guiding me through the city, my new school 100 % judgement free, kind and genuine. You never pretended to be anything or anyone else. You were such a deep person with so much perspective and knowledge of all forms and I believe you were truly spiritually touched to some extent. We went on so many adventures together when I arrived. Any place we discovered we claimed as our own little hideaway. Any place we discovered on our own we would bring each other to to share. That's a huge part of who you are. Someone who shared and lived deeply. Beyond all the hurt I didn't know you had struggled with until later on you still loved, forgave and gave like you never had been hurt. With no bitterness or anger to those who wronged you. You were so gentle. I remember getting my first ice cream here with you at King cone. I didn't have my lactaid pill so you had to call your mom to get me for an actual emergency. Or when you helped me practice for try outs for the softball team which I never made either. The ball hit you in the face and you didn't get mad or anything at me you just shrugged it off and we laughed. Or when Miracle killed a baby bunny and you tried so desperately to free it with a pair of kitchen tongs. We cried and gave the poor thing a proper service in one of our hideaways behind your mom's house. Which we had many of and found together. The ones we found solo we would share with one another. You definitely shared alot with me. You genuinely showed interest in the little things and all things that were important to those you cared about. Like repetitively watching my favorite movie with me over and over though I knew you were probably over it. You were such a giver and a light that I'm not sure you even knew you were. You helped light my way for me in this place and always showed support. You were one of the most deepest people I ever had been blessed to actually know on so many levels as young women trying to find their way. With such creativity and talent to me you were a little genius and I wish I had a fraction of the knowledge or creativity you had. My biggest regret is not coming to see you sooner especially after our last talk. I know you've always been battling your demons and so vigourously we forget

*about the pain behind that at times and being such you had helped me so much getting my footing and just being there I promise I was going to see you. Now it is too late. My heart is deeply saddened by your loss and filled with what ifs that burden me. I know know that you are finally at peace and your soul rest. I am grateful you found God before you transitioned and I know he welcomed you with open arms. I swear God takes all the best ones for himself. I know no amount of words can ease the pain your family feels but I truly believe he does. All that illuminating, positive beautiful energy you possessed is returned into the universe manifesting into greatness. Your presence touched me in many ways. I know you did for others too. You really are such a rare form of compassion and love despite your own struggles. You taught me so much and I will cherish those memories. Rest in his arms. Until we meet again. I love you Lilly.*

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**Ashara lindenann** - December 08, 2021 at 11:01 AM