



## Jill Smith

June 11, 1958 - January 19, 2014

Jill A. Smith, of Bourbonnais, died Sunday (Jan. 19, 2014) at her home. Jill was born June 11, 1958, in Kankakee, to Patricia Spaulding Blanchette and Leon Blanchette. Her husband, Dennis J. Smith, whom she married Dec. 4, 1998, passed away Sept. 3, 2007.

Survivors include Leon and Janet Blanchette, of Bourbonnais; sisters, Janet (Henry) Shelly, of Bonfield, Joyce (Joseph) Milambiling, of Waterloo, Iowa; and a brother, Leonard (Valerie) Blanchette, of Newton, Mass. Survivors also include two nephews, Henry Blanchette and Adam Milambiling; three nieces, Lisa Shelly, Allison (Jason) Cole, and Nina Blanchette; and two great-nephews. The families of Francis Smith, James Smith, and Madelyn O'Brien, along with many friends and co-workers at HomeStar Bank were also part of her extended family.

Jill also leaves behind her beloved, four-legged friend, Mimi.

She was preceded in death by her husband, mother, and maternal and paternal grandparents.

Jill graduated from Bishop McNamara High School and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sacred Heart College (now Dominican University) and an MBA from Olivet Nazarene University. She was employed as a CPA in a local

accounting firm and in 1992 went to work for Bradley Bank. She was the former Technology Department head at HomeStar Bank, and more recently she served on its board of directors.

Jill was a very philanthropic individual who supported many not-for-profit agencies in the community. She was a tireless advocate throughout her life for women and for the mentally ill of all ages.

Private services and burial, attended by Jill's family, have been held. Memorials may be directed to the Dennis J. Smith Legacy Foundation, the Helen Wheeler Center or to Kankakee Community College. Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais, was in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *Mark Bradley lit a candle in memory of Jill Smith*



---

**Mark Bradley** - September 03, 2014 at 03:22 AM

AH

“ *Having just found out about Jill, my heart is so very heavy today. Our friendship, though short and new, will always be special. Jill certainly did know how to light up a room! So beautiful, smart and strong! Deepest sympathies to Jill's family. Much love, Anita Hazlewood*

---

**Anita Hazlewood** - August 14, 2014 at 09:32 AM

DA

“ *Diana Canello Aranyi lit a candle in memory of Jill Smith*



---

**Diana Canello Aranyi** - April 11, 2014 at 03:53 PM

DA

“ I just learned of Jill's passing when the Dominican (Rosary) Spring Magazine arrived today. I considered her a close friend from our college days. I will always remember our weekend visit to Jill's hometown with 2 other friends driving in the Blazer. Although we lost touch a long time ago, I am greatly saddened by her much too soon loss. My deepest sympathies to Jill's family.

-----  
**Diana Canello Aranyi** - April 11, 2014 at 03:52 PM

DP

“ What a truly beautiful woman inside and out. I always enjoyed our visits, thank you for all of your kindness. I will never forget you. Condolences to Jill's family. I know you will be missed very much.

-----  
**Demetra Panousis** - March 10, 2014 at 03:09 PM

CW

“ Cheryl Walsh lit a candle in memory of Jill Smith



-----  
**Cheryl Walsh** - January 24, 2014 at 04:51 PM

CW

*My heartfelt sympathy to you Leon, Janet and family !*

-----  
**Cheryl Walsh** - January 24, 2014 at 04:54 PM

MD

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Blanchette and Smith Families. Jill was a wonderful person and I am better for having known her. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Melanie Dykstra  
Dominican University*

---

**Melanie Dykstra** - January 24, 2014 at 12:47 PM

CM

“ *My heart aches.... You all have mine and my family's deepest sympathy. Love, Cindy*

---

**Cindy Maier** - January 24, 2014 at 12:26 PM

LI

“ *Deepest sympathy to the Blanchette and Smith families.*

*Gary & Linda Chouinard*

---

**Linda** - January 24, 2014 at 12:17 PM

RB

“ *Jill was an amazing person. We are all deeply saddened by her loss. We will miss her very much. I hope we can still be a part of mimi's life. Your petco grooming team.*

---

**Renee Brooks** - January 24, 2014 at 09:22 AM

JR

“ *"It's not how much we give, it's how much love we put into giving." Jill, you were so generous and gave with so much love. I am honored to have known you. I will miss you and your smile.*

---

**jennifer Riedl** - January 23, 2014 at 10:02 PM

PR

“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of Jill's passing. She was a pillar of strength for Dennis and a lovely and caring person. My condolences to Leon and family*

---

**Paul Reinking** - January 23, 2014 at 08:49 PM