



Rebecca Rallings

November 25, 2023

Rebecca Rallings, 74, of Fort Collins, Colorado, died Saturday, November 25, 2023. She was born in South Carolina, the oldest of four children of Bud and Vivian Rallings. As a child she lived and attended school in South Carolina, Florida, and Mississippi before the family settled in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1966. There she graduated from Curry High School in 1968 and from UNC-Greensboro with a degree in Interior Design in 1972. The next year, she married Michael Pawlowski and they shared an adventurous life together. Over the years, she and Michael lived and worked in many places, but their favorites were Alaska and Colorado. They especially appreciated the natural wonders of those states and often hosted friends and family to share in that enjoyment.

Rebecca took great pleasure in her career, but in 2000 she was diagnosed with scleroderma, a degenerative autoimmune disease, and soon had to stop working. Her family and friends continued to benefit from her flair for design, though, as she shared her advice freely with them over the years. Though frequently far away, she kept and cultivated closeness in her relationships. She enjoyed shopping both for herself and for others and was a generous and thoughtful gift-giver.. She also had an eye for fashion and was always so well put together that whenever she went out (with every beautiful hair in place!), most people were not aware of her illness.

Rebecca had a great love of music and wide-ranging tastes. She and Michael attended many concerts over the years in venues around the country. A gifted pianist, Rebecca eventually lost the ability to play but she continued to express her love of music by singing for several years in the Silvertones Senior Choir and the Sunshine Singers. She was also an avid reader.

After Michael died in 2012, Rebecca continued to live independently in spite of increasing physical limitations. She is survived by her three siblings and their families, by numerous in-laws and their families, by many friends who were as dear to her as family, and by Wee, her 15-year-old much-loved kitty.

Many thanks to Seniors Helping Seniors in Fort Collins and to Pathways Hospice for their compassionate care of Rebecca over the last few months. Memorial contributions can be made to the National Scleroderma Foundation (scleroderma.org), the National Park Foundation (nationalparks.org), Pathways Hospice (pathways-care.org) or to the charity of your choice.

Tribute Wall

TW

“ You came to Alaska to be my matron of honor, though you were ill. I remember going to lunch together and coming up with Rachel’s name...Rachel Rebecca. I was so happy you made it to Deanna’s wedding and grateful for all the time we had over the years. Love and miss you. T

Theresa Wrangham - November 30, 2023 at 11:07 PM

HS

Rebecca was an amazing woman whom I came to know thru my friendship and mentor Mike, She demonstrated amazing strength after her diagnosis, Mikes death and her ability to keep calm and carry on! You are rejoined with the love of your life and pain free. You will be missed.

Helene Stout - December 01, 2023 at 12:36 PM

SH

Rebecca , I loved the years we worked together in Atlanta, Ga., in my Interior Design business where you quickly became indispensable. We worked side by side for many years and designed endless projects together. Your quirkiness and flair generated lots of praise from our clients and endless referrals. I have missed you everyday since you left to move to Alaska. We love you deeply. Suzie Belle, John and Joe.

Suzie Belle Hembree - December 03, 2023 at 12:05 AM

LJ

Knew and loved Rebecca and Michael since about 1980. We both loved color and enjoyed the challenges of moving frequently in the early years and choosing unconventional homes. Mike and Rebecca were constants in our children's lives and we'll all miss them terribly. I found myself wandering through their FoCo home in my dreams and will miss the familiarity of that well-appointed home - its colors and artwork, themes like fish and faces and houses and, of course, black cats, like the drawing my daughter Katy made when she was about 7 that Rebecca had pinned in the hallway. Their home has been a touchstone for me since we left CO. My heart... 💔

Lenka Johnson - December 04, 2023 at 11:51 PM

EK

No, there will not be a service. Thanks for asking. Here are a few things you might do instead to honor Rebecca's memory that I think would please her--

Savor a scoop of Haagen-Dazs vanilla bean ice-cream

Snuggle with a kitty (a dog or human will do if a kitty is not available)

Enjoy a cup of hot tea with your feet up

Buy yourself some star-gazer lilies

Hug someone you love

Watch a show on PBS

Admire the view out your window

Marvel at how your hands work

Listen to some favorite music

Paint one wall an accent color

Call a friend and share a Rebecca story

Eve Rallings Keller - December 07, 2023 at 07:25 AM