



Rachel Louise Gast

November 12, 1984 - October 14, 2012

Rachel Louise Gast arrived in her parents' arms Nov. 12, 1984, in Columbus, Ga. She departed this world in the Lord's arms on Oct. 14, 2012, in Atlanta -- a beautiful, smart, and passionate young woman just weeks shy of her 28th birthday. In her time here on earth, she didn't waste a second.

Rachel introduced love and laughter and compassion and energy to everything and everyone she encountered. She embraced and protected her two younger brothers and wound herself irreversibly within their hearts. Rachel built strong and loyal friendships. She shared her life with relatives, classmates, co-workers and animals.

Most of all, she adopted the world and its inhabitants as her neighborhood, exploring all with curiosity, excitement and affection.

Rachel graduated from the University of Georgia and went to work with the International Rescue Committee, where she helped resettle refugees who arrived in the Atlanta area seeking peace and safety. She found them employment, assisted them in adapting to their new culture and surroundings and sought resources for them. She respected them and adored her chosen career.

Her passions extended into every corner of her life. The little girl who played

soccer, softball and the violin grew into a young adult who embraced running, dancing, rock climbing, country music, Latin music, Andrea Bocelli, water skiing and roaming every inch of the globe she could reach. She adored scarves, Toms shoes, Thai food, gardening and cowboy boots. Her dog, Lucas – also known as Mr. Handsome – and her cat, Memo, were her dedicated companions. Because of her love, they did not realize they were blind, and deaf, respectively.

Rachel recently returned to graduate school at Georgia State University to strengthen her education and the work she wanted to do. Her plans were cut short by injuries she received in an auto accident. But her inspiration and abiding love will live on in all who were touched by her magnificent heart.

Survivors include her parents, Philip C. (Jr.) and Susan C. Gast of Snellville; brothers, Andrew Clay Gast and William Dennis Gast of Snellville; maternal grandmother, Nevelyn B. Counts of Columbus; paternal grandparents, Lt. Gen (Ret.) Philip C. and Kay M. Gast of Durham, N.C.; and beloved aunts, uncles and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20, at Zoar United Methodist Church in Snellville, the Rev. Rhoda Howell officiating. A reception at the church will follow. A private burial will take place Monday at Parkhill Cemetery in Columbus, the Rev. Roy White officiating. A 2 p.m. reception for Columbus friends and family will follow at Edgewood United Methodist Church.

Memorial gifts may be made to the International Rescue Committee, the Rachel Gast Memorial Fund at the Georgia Perimeter College Foundation or Kiva.

Tim Stewart Funeral Home in Snellville is handling arrangements.

Previous Events

Service

OCT **20**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Zoar United Methodist Church
3895 Zoar Church Road SW
Snellville, GA 30039

Tribute Wall



“ *Tim Stewart Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rachel Louise Gast*



Tim Stewart Funeral Home - October 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Rachel Louise Gast*

October 08, 2022 at 11:31 AM



“ *Dear Philip, Susan, Andrew and Dennis,
My heart aches for all of you and the families. You are all in my prayers and also the prayer chain at St. Stephen's
We pray that God grant you strength, peace, and comfort which passes all understanding.##imported-begin##Sharon Wolf##imported-end##*

October 20, 2012 at 10:54 AM



“ *My dearest Philip and Susan;
I am so sorry for your lost. Lon and I are praying for you.
Your cousin;*

*Liz Sitton- Sharon Wolf daughter.##imported-begin##Liz
Sitton##imported-end##*

October 19, 2012 at 02:31 PM



“ *SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. SHE WILL BE MISSED BY EVERY
ONE WHO'S LIFE SHE TOUCHED.##imported-begin##MIKE
CURRIE##imported-end##*

October 19, 2012 at 10:13 AM



“ *Please accept my most heartfelt condolences during this most
difficult and sad time for your family. I'm sure you don't remember
me but I am "Miss de Bone" and I was Andrew's kindergarten
teacher at Britt Elementary many years ago.
I remember one particular Open House meeting in my classroom for
Andrew during which both Rachel and Dennis (in diapers) were
present. They were both so good and quiet while I presented!
Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.*

*Blessings,
Beatriz Bokina##imported-begin##Beatriz de Bone'
Bokina##imported-end##*

October 18, 2012 at 04:53 PM



“ May your loving memories of a life well lived bring you comfort during the difficult days ahead. Isaiah 25:8.##imported-begin##K. Carney##imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 02:47 PM



“ We are so very sorry. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you all. Steve, Dolores and Amanda Schmid##imported-begin##Dolores Schmid##imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 01:52 PM



“ I was deeply saddened when I heard of Rachel's accident. My memories of her are of an exceptionally bright, lively girl who was always smiling. As I read about her accomplishments, I was not surprised by her successes and generous nature as she grew into a young lady. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May you find that with time, your precious memories of her will bring some comfort. God bless your wonderful family as you go through this very difficult time.##imported-begin##Gloria Sheppard##imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 01:46 PM



“ How blessed this world was to have had Rachel. I remember her in my kindergarten class as a blond, bright eyed tomboy who loved adventure and a challenge and cared about those around her. Part of what made her special was the loving family that surrounded her. I hope that you can soon think of her with smiles and laughter that will bring comfort to your hearts. Please know that my thoughts and prayers will continue to be with you.

God bless and comfort you.

Janis Smith###imported-begin##Janis Smith###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 12:54 PM



“ I have fond memories of working with Phil and Susan in the 1990s at the AJC. (I was a research librarian there.) I am so so very sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you.###imported-begin##John Jackson###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 11:42 AM



“ I weep for your loss, the wonderful person you had to give up. May you receive the comfort you need during this terrible time of sorrow.###imported-begin##Charlotte Chancellor###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 09:45 AM



“ I worked with Rachel and she was indeed a wonderful young lady. I was so proud to see what she had done with her life. She was always so passionate in what she did. She never just had a job, she had a calling. We were all blessed with having her in our lives. Her spirit lives on, and if we are all just give, a little more thought to our fellow man, we will continue to keep her spirit alive.
"Well done, thou good and faithful servant"###imported-begin##Paula Murray###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 09:08 AM



“ Susan and Phil: I am heartbroken to hear about the tragic loss of your precious daughter. While I never met Rachel, that fact that she's a Gast informs me about how wonderful she was. Her parents are two of the kindest and most genuine people I've ever had the pleasure of working with. I know that mere words of condolence can't ease your pain. I just hope that God's grace embraces you both and your family during this time of sorrow. May the memories of the love that you shared with Rachel bring comfort to you all. God bless.###imported-begin##John Brieske###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 07:31 AM



“ Dear Phil, Susan, Andrew & William,
No words I could ever say would take away your pain right now; and Im sure it's tremendous. Just know that John and I are praying for your family and that hopefully you can find some solace in God's mighty arms to carry you through life as you try to deal with the loss of Rachel. God Bless You All. Claudia & John Streit###imported-begin##Claudia Streit###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 07:23 AM



“ I keep trying to come up with the appropriate, eloquent words to soothe or comfort you all in this incredibly difficult time but I continue to fall terribly short each time I try. I can only say that my heart breaks for each of you and to know that time and faith will make things slowly whole again, though it is so incredibly hard to imagine now. We are thinking and praying for you daily.
With love to you, Courtney & Laird Hoover###imported-begin##Courtney Hoover###imported-end##

October 18, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Susan (and family),

I will not be able to attend the service. I am thankful to have met Rachel when she was with Susan in Columbus at our HHS reunion. We spoke for several minutes on the street downtown while the Soul Proprietors played in the median of Broadway. I knew Rachel was one of those people that never met somebody she could not talk to. It seemed like we had met before. Although I only met her briefly I was introduced to her pets and her passion for life in our brief conversation. Susan ... I pray that you will find peace in knowing she now loves on a different level and with God's Grace and Mercy you will be reunited one day in His house of many rooms!!! - To God be the GLORY!!! - Grandin Eakle###imported-begin##Grandin Eakle###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 11:57 PM



“ Phil and Susan, our prayers are with you and your sons as you mourn the loss of a beautiful daughter. We have always felt a bond with you two since we shared the birth of our twins and Dennis on the same day. Now we cannot imagine your loss. We pray for peace and healing in the days to come.

Shery and Flip###imported-begin###Shery Kearney###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 10:34 PM



“ We have had trouble all week when reading anything about Rachel without becoming very emotional. We love you all and pray for healing, however slow. Know that we will continue to pray for all of you in the days and months ahead.

Linda and Vernon###imported-begin###Vernon Carne###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 08:59 PM



“ May the Lord give you and your family comfort and peace knowing that your dear Rachel is resting safely in His arms.

I am praying for you. God Bless.

-Carolyn Young

Jimmy Monroe's Sunday school class @ First Baptist Snellville Church###imported-begin###Carolyn Young###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 08:54 PM



“ We are very saddened to hear of your loss. It breaks our hearts hearing of her accident and passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.##imported-begin##Renee DeGross Valdes##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 08:44 PM



“ Dear Phil, Susan, Andrew and Dennis - I am so very sorry and was so shocked to hear of Rachel's passing. Your family always meant the world to Mom and Dad (us) and I can only imagine the "embrace" that mom gave Rachel. Please know that you all are in our prayers. Love to you all.##imported-begin##Cami Watson##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 08:13 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. So very sorry for your loss. Know that this angel is watching over us all.

What an amazing life.

Morieka##imported-begin##Morieka Johnson##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 06:57 PM



“ Phil and Susan: We are so heartbroken at your loss. I know what great parents both of you are, and I have fond memories of Susan and I discussing the parallel lives of our Rachels. I can't imagine what you are going through, and I can only hope God grants you comfort. Bless you both and your sons during this terrible time.##imported-begin##Joey & Beki Ledford##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 05:53 PM



“ You always had a smile for us when we saw you. Now all the angels and our Lord will have that pleasure. God Bless the Gast family.##imported-begin##Tom & Lorri Lazenby##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 05:25 PM



“ May God hold you gently during this difficult time. Hugs, Diane and family.##imported-begin##Diane Lore##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 05:12 PM



“ Please know I am suffering in my heart for you both and for Rachel. The best I can offer in condolence is my prayer support. I prayed for a miracle and can only go on faith that God has a plan we don't understand. You guys are the best. It has been my joy to work with both of you. My thoughts and prayers are go out to you.##imported-begin##Curtis Compton##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 04:53 PM



“ What a wonderfully written tribute for a daughter who was obviously beautiful in so many ways -- from her work with refugees to her love for Mr. Handsome and Memo. Susan and Phil, we extend not only our deepest sympathy, but also our extreme admiration -- for you, Rachel and your entire family.##imported-begin##Chuck & Sandy Eckstein##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 04:40 PM



“ Dearest Rachel: We will all miss your warmth, your smile, your generosity. But I know you are free now, your soul dancing in the wind, your bright light shining with the stars. I cherish the conversations we had and will always marvel when I think of how you grew to be a woman of such depth. So talented, smart and beautiful. Always.
Moni###imported-begin###Moni Basu###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 04:35 PM



“ Dear Susan and Phil

Your darling Rachel was just a small child when you became part of the Zoar church family. Watching her grow up was a wonderful joy. We pray that the Lord will wrap His arms around you with love and peace.

Blessings, Bob and Barb Newman###imported-begin###Bob and Barbara Newman###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 03:44 PM



“ Laura and I are so sorry to hear of your tragic loss. It is inconceivable. If there's anything we/I can do, please let us know. Words fail in times such as these. We are so sorry. Bill.###imported-begin###Bill Hendrick###imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 03:28 PM



“ I can't believe i'm signing this this early in Rachel's life. What a joy-generator we've lost! I wish I had the opportunity to see her one more time. I've known her since the sixth grade. I'm heartbroken for the family. I'm just heartbroken period...I miss you friend. We'll meet again one day I hope.##imported-begin##andrew cummins##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 02:59 PM



“ Mr. & Mrs. Gast - I only knew Rachel for about a year, but have not one unhappy memory of her as a good friend, always in good spirits and fun to be around. I'm sorry to lose her as a friend, but am even more sorry for your loss of a daughter. You both, as well as Rachel, will be in my prayers as you get through this tough time. I'll miss Rachel, and will hope she is in a good place now.

John##imported-begin##John Chiappone##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 02:41 PM



“ Praying for you and your family.##imported-begin##Todd Hendricks##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 12:52 PM



“ My heart goes out to you. You will be in my dearest thoughts and deepest prayers. Rachel is a beautiful young lady. I always enjoyed her when she was in my classes.##imported-begin##Kathy Port##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 12:35 PM



“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Ralph and Pat Greene##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 11:09 AM



“ My heart goes out to you both at this time and I'm thinking of you and praying for God to comfort you now.##imported-begin##Myra Evans##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 09:55 AM



“ Phil, Susan, Andrew and Dennis, we can only say how sorry we are about Rachel's passing. She and all of you are in our prayers. Try to stay strong and never forget a day or moment that you spent with your wonderful daughter. Life is only a passing moment and the time will come when all of you are together once again. God bless Rachel and all of you.

The Hester Family##imported-begin##Steven, Ann, Jenny, Stephen & Janie Hester##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 08:04 AM



“ The Gast family,
You are in my prayers during this difficult time. I hope there is comfort knowing that Rachel is with her Lord and Savior. She is at peace.
Know also that God is watching over you and holding you.
Shelia##imported-begin##Shelia Poole##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 07:35 AM



“ Phil and Susan, Rachel was a wonderful person, a reflection of her parents. Moni and I are so sorry.##imported-begin##Kevin Duffy##imported-end##

October 17, 2012 at 07:29 AM



“ Susan and Phil,
So very saddened by the passing of your beautiful daughter. Your family is in our prayers - asking God to comfort you now and in the days and weeks ahead.##imported-begin##Becky White##imported-end##

October 16, 2012 at 09:49 PM



“ Phil and Susan, please know that we are thinking of you right now. I don't have the words to comfort you, but I can tell you time will heal and bring solace to you. I know the world is better, and so are we for having Rachel for the brief time she was here. God bless and keep you.##imported-begin##Laurie Hoffman##imported-end##

October 16, 2012 at 04:52 PM



“ Phil, Susan and family,

My prayers go out to you during this difficult time. Your daughter is now a beautiful angel who I know will watch you all from above.

God Bless,

Cynthia Daniels-DuBose##imported-begin##Cynthia Daniels-DuBose##imported-end##

October 16, 2012 at 04:48 PM



“ Susan and Phil, I make my living with words but can find no words to express how deeply saddened I am. I can express what I know is true: That no two people have ever been better parents. That no child ever felt more love than Rachel. That such kind and good people should never have to endure the heartache you now feel. You will be in my prayers daily, as you will be in the prayers of so many others. I pray those prayers, and the ever-present love of our Lord, will make the coming days easier to bear. Know you are loved beyond measure by many who treasure your friendship, just as we cherish the memory of your precious, beautiful Rachel.##imported-begin##Mary Anne Carroll Gordon##imported-end##

October 16, 2012 at 02:24 PM