



## Rachael A. Macklem

May 5, 1937 - December 16, 2021

A longtime resident of Beloit, Rachael Anne Bizal Macklem passed away on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at her home in Beloit. She was greatly loved and will be profoundly missed by her family and friends. Rachael was born on May 5, 1937 in Buffalo, NY to Rachael Sanders Bizal and John Adolf Bizal.

A graduate of Paris High School in Paris, Illinois, Rachael attended Lawrence College (now University) in Appleton, WI, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in French in 1959. Through the summers of her college years, she worked with teenagers, teaching outdoor and survival skills. At Lawrence she enjoyed the many musical studies and opportunities offered by the Lawrence Conservatory of Music and played French horn in the band and orchestra. She was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority. At Lawrence, she met her husband, James Macklem, who was completing his doctorate at the Institute of Paper Chemistry. They moved to Beloit in 1960 where Jim was employed by the Beloit Iron Works until his retirement in 1992. They were married for 60 years.

Though her children and family were of most importance to her, Rachael was always a strong supporter of the Beloit community, where she was a member of Fortnightly, Topical Review, the Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra Guild and Book Club. She volunteered in many organizations, including the BJSO Guild, as well as the Girl Scouts, leading troop 27 at Morgan School for several years. During her children's school years, she was active in the Morgan School PTA, including a year as president. She was a member of the First Congregational Church and sang in the choir, taught Sunday school and served as Chairman of the Deaconesses. She was also counselor and cook at the First Congregational church school camp held at Wyalusing State Park. In more recent years, she continued to be active in the church, using her baking talents to make treats for the congregation after services.

Rachael had a continuing interest in opera and music, delighting in travel to many of the great opera houses. She loved the out-of-doors, fishing, hiking, kayaking, gardening and the natural world. She was a poet, knitter and baker who took pleasure in a task or project

well done. She showed great love for her husband in the care she gave to him during his later years. She loved her children immensely, teaching them things too numerous to list—how to bake bread, take care of their children, and, most of all, to love, and live, life.

She is survived by her three daughters: Elizabeth Nathan (Joseph) and their children James and Gwen (Milford, PA); Catherine Field (J. Douglas) and their children Ellen, Margaret and John Henry (Los Gatos, CA); and Mary S. Macklem (Eugene Montague) and their children, Róisín, Eoin and Cian (Silver Spring, MD). She cherished her family and grandchildren greatly, and they cherished her. Rachael is also survived by her brother Dr. John A. Bizal (Debbie) and longtime friend and family member Nancy F. Bizal. She took great delight, interest, and pride in all her nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to The First Congregational Church of Beloit or Rotary Gardens in Janesville.

A Funeral Service for Rachael will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 19, 2021 in the First Congregational Church, 801 Bushnell St., Beloit, WI with Rev. Gene Van Galder officiating. Burial will be in East Lawn Cemetery. Visitation of Remembrance will be held from 1:15 p.m. until the time of service in the church. Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI, assisted the family with arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## East Lawn Cemetery

Milwaukee Road  
Beloit, WI 53511

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 19. 1:15 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Congregational Church  
801 Bushnell Street  
Beloit, WI

## Service

DEC 19. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Congregational Church  
801 Bushnell Street  
Beloit, WI

# Tribute Wall

KN

“ My condolences to the entire Macklem family. I graduated with Mary in 1989 (Moen - maiden name). I haven't seen her for years. We played trumpet together. The very minute I saw Rachael's picture, instant memories of the most caring, gentle and kind woman came to mind. I am so sorry for your loss. May God be your strength.

Kim Niedfeldt - January 07 at 10:22 AM

JC

“ Some people are sent to provide a ray of light to a dark day or a smile to add joy to anyone. Rachael was that person--and it was a pleasure to live next to her and Jim for 20 plus years. Sincerely, Judy Christensen and John McDonnell

Judy Christensen - December 24, 2021 at 05:08 PM

JB

“ Dear Liz, Cathy, Mary and families,  
We were so sorry to hear about your mom. John and I have so many memories of holidays, birthday parties, band concerts and so many wonderful treats from the Macklem kitchen. Our mom treasured her friendship with your mom.  
In Sympathy, Julie Hornbostel Bartholomew, Jim, Sarah and Kathrine Bartholomew

Julie Hornbostel Bartholomew - December 22, 2021 at 05:45 PM

CO

“ Dear Liz, Cathy and Mary Sue,  
I am so sorry for the loss of your special mom. I missed when your dad passed away. They were such loving parents and outstanding contributors to the community. You can all be so proud of them. I know you will miss them very much.  
Your family were wonderful next door neighbors on Brewster. I had many fun times babysitting all of you. A story I remember is with Liz and when she took her first steps with me. Your mom came home and she was so disappointed that she missed your first steps. So, we had you “walk” again and pretended it was the first time!  
I am thinking of your family and send my condolences. Love, Chris (Papesh) O'Neil, Minneapolis

Christine O'Neil - December 20, 2021 at 10:48 AM

FS

“ Liz, Cathy and Mary, so sorry for the loss of your mom. She will definitely be missed! She was such a kind woman and had a good sense of humor! Regards,  
Fran Sorenson

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**Fran Sorenson** - December 16, 2021 at 02:53 PM