



Rebecca Ann Goodlett

March 24, 1976 - April 22, 2025

FITCHBURG - Rebecca Ann (Jackson) Goodlett, 49, of Fitchburg, passed away on Tuesday morning, April 22, 2025, in her home. In the weeks and months that preceded her passing, her three sons watched over and cared for her, and a ceaseless caravan of colleagues, friends, and family visited, brought food, and offered joy and well wishes.

Rebecca was born in Portland, Oregon, on March 24, 1976, the daughter of the late Robert and Frances (Bestwick) Jackson. She grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska, before moving back to Oregon, where she earned a bachelor's degree in the sciences from the University of Oregon.

After meeting her fiancé, Sean C. Goodlett, at UO, she moved to Fitchburg in 2001, and that October they were married at the Nubble Lighthouse in York, Maine. She went on to receive her master's degree in special education and a certificate of advanced graduate studies (CAGS) in teaching English as a second language from Fitchburg State University, as well as a passel of teaching certificates from the state of Massachusetts.

Rebecca was an elementary school teacher for fifteen years, first at the Holy Rosary School in Gardner and then in the Fitchburg Public Schools, where she taught at South Street Elementary and later McKay Elementary. She retired last year.

Friends and colleagues will tell you that she was a tenacious, endlessly talented, and loving soul who put her utmost (and then some) into everything she did. If you sat in her classroom, you saw her passion for learning and teaching. If you ate at her table, you experienced her boundless creativity and love of food. If you walked with her these last seven years, you saw her always moving, never allowing sickness to define or slow her down.

When she wasn't teaching, Rebecca enjoyed cooking and baking. Her cookbook collection was rivaled only by her encyclopedic memory of ingredients, substitutions, and recipes; there was never a cuisine she didn't attempt or succeed at. Her cupcakes were legendary, and during many holidays the house overflowed with candies.

In the years before and even during her lengthy illness, Rebecca loved to be active. She was a runner, often logging 30 or more miles a week, and she and her husband walked for miles every evening; on the weekends they went for hikes in the local woods and on bike trails.

She leaves her spouse, Sean C. Goodlett, of Fitchburg; three sons, Gregor C. Goodlett, Ethan C. Goodlett, and Liam C. Goodlett all of Fitchburg; two brothers, Stephen Jackson, and his wife, Rachel Lapkin, of Conway, MA, and Christopher Jackson and his wife, Natcha, of Carleton, OR.

Calling hours will be held at the Anderson Funeral Home, 316 Clarendon Street, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st. A funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, May 2nd, at 11:30 a.m. in the Holy Rosary Church, 135 Nichols Street, Gardner. Burial services will be attended by immediate and extended family only. Rebecca will come to rest at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to the American Cancer Society and/or Massachusetts General Hospital, where she received exceptional and loving care.

Cemetery Details

Mt Auburn Cemetery

Cambridge, MA

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAY 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Isabelle & Anderson Funeral Home
316 Clarendon Street
fitchburg, MA 01420
brian@andersonfuneral.com

Funeral Mass

MAY 2. 11:30 AM (ET)

Holy Rosary Church
135 Nichols Street
Gardner, MA

Tribute Wall

AN

“ I met and worked with Rebecca at Fitchburg Savings Bank, when she first moved to the east coast. She was such a wonderful, and beautiful lady, from the inside out. I am so blessed to have known her. My heart is broken. Sending my deepest sympathy to Sean and her boys.

Ann Marie Nieman - May 01, 2025 at 03:55 PM

TD

“ The FSU Humanities Department purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rebecca Ann Goodlett.



The FSU Humanities Department - May 01, 2025 at 11:47 AM

SS

“ Shirley Schneider purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Rebecca Ann Goodlett.



Shirley Schneider - April 30, 2025 at 07:37 PM

SS

“ Shirley Schneider planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rebecca Ann Goodlett.

Shirley Schneider - April 30, 2025 at 07:37 PM

UF

“ US Navy Recruiting office Fitchburg purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Rebecca Ann Goodlett.



US Navy Recruiting office Fitchburg - April 30, 2025 at 01:29 PM

LZ

“ I am sorry for your loss. I have find memories of dinners at your house and the unending parade of food and sweets. She was a woman after my own heart. I don't know many other people who buy bags of flour 50lbs at a time. Sending all my love. -Lindsay Zamora (Degutis)

Lindsay Zamora - April 29, 2025 at 05:44 PM

FS

“ Fabiola S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rebecca Ann Goodlett.

Fabiola S. - April 28, 2025 at 08:00 PM

EB

“ Rebecca was such an amazing women. She gave 200% to whatever she did, and she did it all amazingly. The parties she and Sean threw were incredible, with foods from all over the world, each one more delicious than the next, and Rebecca did them all. She was an incredible person and she brought so much to all of our lives. She will be sorely missed!

Eric Budd - April 27, 2025 at 09:14 PM

LY

My life and the lives of my children were touched by the beautiful and multi-talented Rebecca. I'll always remember the wonderful goodies she sent home with my son at Christmas and the virtual pizza crust lesson she held for me and the kids during Covid, her sweet offer to come and read recipes to me when I was in the hospital, and her love and support all around. I wish I could be half of the amazing person she was. We were all so truly blessed to have known her. Our sincerest condolences to Sean and the boys.

-Lynn, Kanaye, and Julia

Lynn - April 28, 2025 at 08:08 PM

CD

“ *Communications Media Department purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rebecca Ann Goodlett.*



Communications Media Department - April 26, 2025 at 08:34 PM