



## Joanne Berman Klein

November 18, 1931 - April 11, 2017

Joanne Berman Klein, age 85, of Pepper Pike, Ohio, passed away peacefully at home on the morning of April 11, 2017. Joanne, known fondly as “Joey” by her seven grandchildren, was born November 18, 1931, in Cleveland, the second of two daughters of Lew Berman and Lillian Neshkin, and was also raised by her much-loved stepmother Ella Hirschl Berman. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Civia Margolis, and the love of her life, Stuart Klein. Originally from the Glenville area of Cleveland, she remained lasting friends with her childhood and Glenville High School classmates. Together with her husband, she built a successful business, Compaction Specialists, and the house of their dreams, where she had lived for more than four decades. Joanne spent her free time devouring books of all types and welcoming friends in their home. In recent years, those friends included her caregivers, for whom she developed a close attachment and a feeling of deep gratitude. Joanne was a Thanksgiving hostess extraordinaire, right up through last November, and she enjoyed laughter and a silly joke more than almost anyone, especially when shared with her sons and grandchildren. In keeping with her love of both books and children, Joanne volunteered at her local library as well as a kindergarten classroom later in life. Some of her fondest memories were of the grandchildren “playing rough with Papa” or in the backyard playground Stu built for them. As a lifelong Clevelander, she craved the sun, and it came out in full force for her final days, which she spent looking out at the deer in her woodsy yard in the first blush of spring. She is survived by her two sons, who were the greatest joys of her life, Steven Klein (Karen) of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Jeffrey Klein (Lexie), of Houston, Texas; a niece, Lianne (Wayne) Maxson of Coral Springs, FL; a nephew, Ron (Lisa) Margolis of Highland Heights; and her grandchildren, who brought her indescribable joy: Brett, Tyler, Kyle, Konner, Alex, Kate, and Tim Klein. Arrangements were made by Shapiro Funeral Services of Orange Village, but there will be no services. For those wanting to make donations, memorial contributions to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, 15500 S. Waterloo Road, Cleveland, OH 44110 would be appreciated.

# Comments

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“ Dear Friends Steve and Jeff,

I wouldn't be the person I am today were it not for the kindness and friendship I found in the home of your parents on Cedar Rd. I'm afraid I took refuge there all too often in my youth. More and more as the years pass, I realize the generous understanding and guidance your mom gave me. I'm sorry I never told her so in person, but feel she must have known. I remember fondly our last visit together and enjoying a meal of Chinese food just before my trip to Taiwan! Although delayed, I hope my message brings comfort to both of you.

-David Boyd

**David Boyd** - December 08, 2018 at 07:03 AM

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“ Very sorry to hear of Joann's passing. I stopped to see her yesterday, as I did from time to time, and saw that the house had been sold. I had that feeling of dread and started searching, and just found out the news. I was one of her step mom's foster boys and was always very fond of her and Stu. Raunchy, funny, and always doing her best to embarrass you in a loving way. I stopped to see her about a year ago. I'll miss our wonderful conversations.

All my love to the family,  
Dennis Dragomer

**Dennis Dragomer** - October 11, 2017 at 11:59 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Tim Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 04:48 PM



“ Kate, Tim and Jeff Klein having a spirited baseball practice in Houston this morning,. This is a great Klein tradition and one Joey loved to hear about (especially when Kate was part of the action)! Loving you Joey and am already thinking of you often.

**Tim Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 04:58 PM



“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



**Elaine Duggan** - April 16, 2017 at 12:27 PM



“ Joanne was my favorite of all my parents' friends. She was so kind and funny and deliciously raunchy. I'd like to think she's together with Stu now, sharing Chinese food with my parents and having a grand time. I'll miss our phone chats and her wonderful sense of humor. Much love to your family - Elaine

**Elaine Duggan** - April 16, 2017 at 12:32 PM

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“ A few years ago, Joey welcomed me to Pepper Pike to let me share my detailed journal of my experiences in Israel the previous summer. She couldn't see very well, so she just closed her eyes and listened to me as I read about my experiences that summer. She'd stop me to ask questions, or tell me something from her life that was related. It was so much fun! Then, obviously, she made us go to that Chinese restaurant nearby that she loved, and she ordered about \$70 of food for us. We at all of it. It definitely wasn't Kosher. Miss you and love you, "Joan."

**Alex Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 10:42 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Tim Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ Klein family celebrating Joey this weekend in Texas with the fun memory of maple cookies (her favorite treat to share with family)

**Tim Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 09:17 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Tim Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 09:14 AM



“ Jeff along with cousins Ron Margolis and Lianne Margolis Maxson in Cleveland during a recent visit with Joey. It was a beautiful reunion as we had seen each other very infrequently in recent years.

**Tim Klein** - April 16, 2017 at 09:21 AM

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“ Introducing Joanne to my grandson was a very special moment. She had been with me through every event in my adult life. I will miss her more than words can say. Rest In Peace sweet, friend.



**Cindy Davis** - April 15, 2017 at 10:37 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**John Brandt** - April 15, 2017 at 12:59 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**Tim Klein** - April 15, 2017 at 11:10 AM



“ Play ball!

**Tim Klein** - April 15, 2017 at 11:12 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Tim Klein** - April 15, 2017 at 11:09 AM



“ Thanksgiving 2016 - Tim Klein, Lexie Klein, Joey, Tyler Klein, Lisa Klein, Jeff Klein

**Tim Klein** - April 15, 2017 at 11:12 AM

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“ Joy. Pure Joy is what Joanne brought to my life. Her face lit up every time she saw me and it filled my heart with her love. To be accepted and feel love so unconditionally as a boy of 11 back in the 70s through present time ----such a special lady. We shared many laughs, often perpetrated by the ingenious and somewhat devious mind of my good friend Jeff. These two shared such a beautiful & close relationship and to be in their company as they joked, bickered, and shared some pretty salty conversations (strongly supported by me) are some of the happiest times I have shared with the people in my life.

We miss those we love, but the memories of a life so well lived, a loving soul that connected to so many is a life to be celebrated. God love you dear Joanne. You gave me much joy, love and one of the best friends I will ever have. Peace to you Jeff & Steve.

**John Brandt** - April 14, 2017 at 10:12 PM