



ANN ROBINSON

December 13, 1935 - December 25, 2018

SERVICES: 11:00 AM WEDNESDAY 12/26/2018 at HEBREW MEMORIAL CHAPEL

A LINK WILL BE PROVIDED FOR A WEBCAST OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE

Ann Sharon Robinson, a/k/a Anna Banana, 83, native of Detroit, passed away on December 25, 2018 in Farmington Hills, Michigan due to complications of diabetes and dementia. She was born on Friday, December 13, 1935, in southwest Detroit to Madeline and Elmer Holten. She was the eldest of three; her siblings were Beverly and Robert. She was married to Alvin Stilman in 1957, divorced in 1973; later married to Phil Robinson in 1976, widowed in 1989; then a partner of Peter Benz from 2004 until his death in 2018. She attended Cass Tech High School, graduating in 1954 with honors from the Commercial Art Department. She attended classes on a scholarship at Center for Creative Studies then later in her 30's attended Wayne State University, obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Education, majoring in Special Education in 1973, then in 1983 obtained a Master's Degree in Education, with a focus on Reading.

Ann was first employed as an art teacher for Detroit Public Schools at Day School for the Deaf, and then became a Teacher/Consultant for the Special Education Department. Ann was raised Catholic, but converted to Judaism before marriage to Alvin Stilman. She lived her entire life in Detroit except for a 2 ½ year period when she and Alvin were first married and he was drafted in Army stationed in Nuremburg, Germany. Their first son Jeffrey was born there, then after their return to Detroit their second son Steven was born. Ann's brother Bob (Margie) bore two children, Mark (Cheryl) and Rachel (Tim) making her an Aunt, then later a Great Aunt to Andrew and Adam, and Mia and Graham respectively. In marriage she became the stepmom to Jeff and Scott Robinson, and pseudo stepmom to Gretchen, Moirasheen and Meghan Benz, as well as Sister-in-Law to Henrietta (Mike), Gladys (Teddy) and Beatrice, and Aunt to Terry (Stanley), Elayne (Barry), Sharon (Arnie) and Larry, and Great Aunt to Lee (Bonnie) Melissa (Jon) Hilary (Julian), Jeremy. She also in more recent years had a cat name Monet which she adored.

Ann's artistic abilities were noted at a very young age. Several letters were written by her teachers who saw her talent and encouraged her to pursue it. She won a prize for drawing

a horse when she was 12, just the first of many throughout her life. She was quite honored to have had a piece exhibited at the Scarab Club. Not only did she use paint, but also used pastels, pen and ink, stenciled logos for bowling shirts, created flyers for businesses, quilted, created a Rock City, made jewelry, pottery, and lovingly a nursery rhyme mural for her grandchildren's nursery. Ann won 1st place in a contest that took place when an addition was built to the Northland Mall of Southfield. Ann was an avid reader. Her other hobbies included being part of group of long-time friends who played Mah Jongg, listening to jazz, photography, then more recently Bingo. She was a collector of art in the form of frogs and quilted dolls.

Ann will be remembered as a loving Mother, Mother-in-Law, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother, Sister-in-Law, Aunt, Great Aunt, and friend to many. We will all miss her sense of humor, non-judgmental personality, willingness to try anything once, political advocacy, supporter of the arts, and lover of chocolate!

She is survived by her sons Jeff (Erin) and Steven (Ron Leuterio), grand-children Joshua (Jessica) Stilman, Leah (Christopher) Jansen, great-grandchild Cambria Stilman, Sister-in-Law Margie Holten. Nieces Terry (Stanley) Schwartz, Elayne (Dr. Barry) Moss, Larry Stein, Sharon Golob, Mark (Cheryl) Holten, Rachel (Tim) Parker, and many great nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by spouse Phil Robinson, long-time companion Peter Benz, sister Beverly (Frank) Vojcek, brother Robert Holten, Sisters-in-Law Henrietta (Mike) Weingarden, Gladys (Teddy) Allen, and Beatrice Stein.

Services will be held at the Hebrew Memorial Chapel at 11:00 a.m. located at 26640 Greenfield Road in Oak Park, Michigan, 48237, officiated by Rabbi Rubenstein

Three words to describe Ann: Open-minded, Artist, Optimist

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi S. Rubenstein

INTERMENT:

Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery

SHIVA:

The family will observe Shiva through Wednesday evening at the residence of Elayne and Dr. Barry Moss

20232 Forestwood

Southfield, MI
(248) 354-6420

THE FAMILY HAS REQUESTED THEIR PRIVACY BETWEEN 4:00 PM AND 6:30 PM

RELIGIOUS SERVICES:
7:00 PM WEDNESDAY EVENING

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of
ANN ROBINSON

you may do so by making a contribution to:

In lieu of flowers, the family of Ann Robinson wishes to have her honored by making a
donation to <http://www.artroadnonprofit.org/>.

Comments



“ A webcast video has been added.



Hebrew Memorial Chapel - December 26, 2018 at 10:19 AM



“ Karen Hammer: Ann and I worked together on the Greenacres-Woodward Community Radio Patrol. She decided to become my friend.
I attended art exhibitions of her INCREDIBLE colored pencil art. So amazing...

She knew a mutual friend, Pete Benz, and they and we visited restaurants together. He did improv work in Hamtramck.

Also a Detroit resident, he championed the Detroit River Conservancy, which she supported. He became a steering committee member of the State Fairgrounds Development Coalition (SFDC), and passed away in 2017. This was a great loss for Ann. He'd been Ann's constant and reliable companion-- before and after she had moved out of her Greenacres home. Taking her out to dinner, to an exhibition, and keeping alive their mutual interests,

I mourn her passing, but feel grateful for the time she touched my life. She acted on her interests and issues she cared about. She reached out to others, and followed her continued interest in life and making new connections. She is missed. I love you, Ann.

Frank Hammer - January 01, 2019 at 09:47 PM



“ Thank you for your kind words about my Mother, I know she was excited about her activity with the neighborhood watch.

Jeff and Erin Stilman

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 06:29 PM



“ I'm sad to hear of this news. Ann's no-hassle ways, generosity and inclusiveness are well remembered by me as she welcomed two additional teenaged boys in her home from time to time. Later, traveling with dad to family visits far away. Now, I like to imagine Dad and Ann hollering 'Hello?...Hello!' Down the hall in the Litchfield Ave. house.

Condolences to Jeff, Steven and Erin - she was a great lady!

Jeff Robinson - December 26, 2018 at 02:23 PM



“ Prayers to Ann's family. She was such a kind and loving neighbor. We have nothing but very fond memories here in Greenacres. Heaven had gained an Angel. May Ann Rest in Peace!

Maria Dickerson
Greenacres Woodward Community

Maria Dickerson - December 28, 2018 at 05:39 PM



“ First Jeff Robinson thank you for your condolences. My mother had pictures of you around her house. Erin has found some more and will send them soon. I am sorry we have not connected over the years and hope to see you sometime in the future.

Second: Maria - Thank you for your condolences and prayers she really loved Greenacres.

Jeff and Erin Stilman

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 06:36 PM



“ Dear Family of beloved Anna Banana.

I am saddened by the loss of such an amazing human being. I send my deepest sympathies and love to you all.

Annie Bananie was such a huge part of our breakfast cult community. She lit up the place when she arrived!

Personally, she was one of my favorite people to cook for and she inspired many Culinary ideas in my mind and heart.

I had been looking for her not knowing how the last years had become.

Good bye for now Miss Lady I adore. Until we shall meet again

Love you so

Nicole Cass

Nicole Cass - December 26, 2018 at 12:27 PM



“ Dear Nicole

Thank you so much for your kind words about my mother. I think next to her art work, food was her greatest passion. I had many meals with her at her breakfast hangouts.

Thank you Erin and Jeff Stilman

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 06:44 PM



“ Dear Steve and family: I am so sorry for your loss. I knew of "Anna Banana" from Saturday morning breakfasts at Bart's long before I knew she was your mom! She always held court at the counter. I have so missed that Saturday morning community but she will remain an important part of my memories too. Sincerely, Connie Webb

Connie Webb - December 26, 2018 at 11:05 AM



“ Thank you condolences Connie. She would take us to Barts every so often and tell everybody "This is my son" (very embarrassing). I have very fond memory's of the place. Erin and Jeff Stilman

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ Now Ann is with her parents & siblings. I did not know Cousin Ann as good as her brother Bobbie & sister Bev. But things changed a while ago when I went to her apartment on 14 mile rd. I had so much fun with her we spent hours talking.

Bunny Wilson - December 25, 2018 at 07:52 PM



“ Dear Bunny
Thank you for your comment. It was good to see you at the funeral. I hope we see each other soon.

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 06:50 PM



“ (Written in a letter to me that I am sharing here at her request)
Dear Erin
Ann creativity and work as an artist are well known to anyone who knew her. Three of her drawings and paintings are in my living room along with a rock house and a new white rock head. (done just this summer.)

I guess the best place to start is at the beginning of our friendship ...
I have known Ann from the time when I was still a student at Wayne not yet 20 years old.
and she was a young mother .
We attended parties together ...many of them at her house.

One of the first things we did together was act in a play at the First U-U Church near Wayne. We were both dressed as noblemen attending a performance of a Shakespearean play. We had no lines. We just needed to sit and respond to the play. It was great fun!

Later when Dick and I married and he and Alvin worked together in East Detroit Public Schools

we took our children to watch the Thanksgiving Day parade from the window of

Borowitz's Bookstore.

During the time Dick and I were in West Texas we lost track of each other.

But our close friendship began when Dick and I returned to Detroit about forty years ago. It was then I began to realize the JOY and LIGHT and SUNSHINE that she brought to my life.

Ann did not have an easy life but she approached everything with such ENTHUSIASM and GRACE! How does one describe a friend who would

paint the outside of your summer place

help tile a bathroom

exchange books we enjoyed

take golf lessons with you

learn to quilt

and play pool with your husband even though she had never played pool before????????????????

ANN DID ALL OF THESE and more!!!!

This does not include the sleep overs and days spent with Diane Karabetsos and I in the last few years ..acting like teenagers.

She will be missed

Much of the Joy and Light and Sunshine has gone from this world with her passing.

Love, Laura Smith

erin stilman - December 25, 2018 at 05:38 PM



“ This world has lost her joy...her...sunshine and love.
Laura

Laura A. Smith - December 25, 2018 at 04:18 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about Ann. She and I always got along wonderfully. May she rest in peace.May your family find solace in this difficult time. Love Jeff Schmidt.

Jeffrey Schmidt - December 25, 2018 at 02:47 PM



“ Thank you Jeff for your kind words. I hope we can get together soon.
Love Jeff and Erin

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 07:08 PM



“ To Jeffery, Erin, and Steven sorry to hear of the passing of your mother she will sadly be missed by everyone in the family.

Cousin Larry Stein

Larry Stein - December 25, 2018 at 10:23 AM



“ Hi Larry. Thank you very much for your kind words. I hope everything is going ok with you.
Love Erin and Jeff

Jeffrey Stilman - January 21, 2019 at 07:15 PM