



ILENE COFFMAN

September 15, 1919 - April 24, 2020

FAMILY GRAVESIDE SERVICE: 12:00 NOON TUESDAY 4/28/2020 at
HEBREW MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY

TO WATCH A RECORDING OF THE FUNERAL SERVICE, PLEASE GO TO
PHOTOS AND VIDEO SECTION OF THIS WEBPAGE AND CLICK ON THE
VIDEO

Age 100 (and 7 months) of Oak Park, formerly of Farmington Hills, died April
24, 2020.

Beloved wife of 54 years to the late Albert Coffman (formerly sports reporter,
Al "Speed").

Devoted mother of the late Dennis Coffman, Joseph (Nancy) Coffman, Heidi
(Craig Cesarone) Coffman and Amy (Andrew) Paberzs.

Loving grandmother of Alan (Cathleen Evans) Paberzs, Adam (Molly)
Paberzs, Anna (Matthew) Modansky, Sam Tencer, Joel Tencer and Lisa
Tencer.

Proud great-grandmother of Henry Evans-Paberzs, Emerson Evans-Paberzs,
Evelyn Rose Modansky, Maggie Mae Modansky, and Jacob Albert Modansky.
Cherished sister to the late Minnie Berson, the late Sadie Jones and the late
Clare Berkowitz and the cherished aunt to many nieces and nephews.

She held office in B'nai B'rith and was a member of Hadassah.

She was a graduate in Elementary Education at Wayne State University in her

40's.

She loved to play bridge and read, volunteering and helped many ailing relatives over the years.

OFFICIATING:

Rabbi David Nelson

INTERMENT:

Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery

SHIVA:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS BEING GATHERED

CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to further honor the memory of

ILENE COFFMAN

you may do so by making a contribution to:

HADDASAH

or

AAUW

www.AAUW.org

Previous Events

Service

APR **28**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Hebrew Memorial Park Cemetery
33230 Gratiot
Clinton Township, MI 48035

Tribute Wall

NC

“ I have known Ilene Coffman for 53 years and have been her daughter-in-law for 50 years. She was remarkably accepting of me as was the whole family. Through the years we had a lot of laughter and a lot of tears. Ilene, Amy and Heidi taught me how to play Mahjong at a time when we used the game to laugh away the tears of the sudden loss of our best friend and brother, Denny. Ilene gave me many gifts of all sorts through the years, but the gift that means the most to me is the man I love, Joe Coffman, my husband of 50 years! Her spirit and intellect have been so often reflected in this very good life with Joey.

Nancy Frankland Coffman

Nancy Frankland Coffman - April 28, 2020 at 08:09 PM

JC

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Joseph Coffman - April 28, 2020 at 07:36 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Joseph Coffman - April 28, 2020 at 07:33 PM

JC

“ *From Your Son Joseph*

Mom, your life is worthy of a fine novel. Its themes and historic avenues wind back and forth into the profound consciousness of so many you've touched all your life. We all know that true story of you, the baby in saddlebags on horseback across the steppes and the slim chance you and terrified sisters and grandmothers great and great-great would even survive. But you did and what followed was the remarkable diaspora of emotional lives that have defined our family histories and the emotional trains as well from your passion and love across many cultures, religions and people, all touched by your spirit and tolerance.

You faced the unknown often alone with two sons and lived on potato peels for a time during the Great Depression yet made a home of peace and joy for my brother Dennis and my mischievous self no matter what obstacles were presented. The Thanksgiving holidays you held over decades were an insistence that memory for all involved in our often complex lives would have a core and pause of gratitude that we too had somehow survived.

There will never be another one in our lives like you—and the wisps of spirit and love will surely be passed forever because you lived.

Joseph Coffman - April 28, 2020 at 05:30 PM

OT

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Otto - April 28, 2020 at 03:10 PM

FF

“ *Sending Ilene's entire family our sincerest condolences. She was fortunate to live such a long life and reap the benefits of such a loving family. May she Rest In Peace knowing that she did her job well and you will all carry on her legacy. Those values and memories are embedded in you, and you will forever cherish them. Very fondly, Francine and Bob Fish*

Francine Fish - April 28, 2020 at 01:08 PM

AP

Thanks so much for your caring comments, Fran and Bob. Your thoughts are very appreciated by all of our family. We miss my Mom. She was a special person. We will love and remember her in all the days to come.

Amy Paberzs - June 01, 2020 at 11:58 PM



“ So when you live to 100 you come in contact with a lot of people. As 3rd husband to Heidi, I can be found on the extreme, outer time-rings of the majestic, Illene tree.

My visited to her in house in Farmington Hills was very sweet & nostalgic for me. The house was a copy of the one I grew up in only a block a way! We talked about all our Franklin Knolls neighbors that had come and gone. I was amazed at how Illene remembered everything, all the names, details & gossip.

As Illene transitioned into to assisted living, our weekly visits centered around card games & Rummikub. Here again, I was in awe at how sprite & brilliant she was. Never missing a beat.. During the games, I would pepper her with questions on Yiddish words or Detroit history. She was always a fountain of knowledge.

What I also learned from these visits was how smart Illene was. She was well read, would write poetry, and discuss progressive politics. Never forgot the funny Goy Boy poem she read out loud at our Wedding reception, Illene was very lucky at Bingo and had hundreds of stuffed animal prizes to prove it.

Illene was a wise Stoic. She had endured a lot of pain, but never outwardly complained.. Why, the only time she compained was when you took too much time to shuffle the playing cards! Her Zen-cool amazed me when you consider how many seniors collect & expound on their aches/pains. I asked her why she didn't join in the elder complaint-mantra? She answered, "What good does it really do"

Illene never demanded too many things. Heidi would have to call to ask her if she needed icecream & pop? (She loved Ice Cream Sodas) You could never leave a voice message.. for she admitted, "I'm not a caller backer"

Another admirable Illenism was how insightful & existenstial she

could be. Good example, was many years ago when she 1st moved in to assisted living. She casually turned to us and said, "Well, I'm here now, guess what the next step is? (she accented this quote by rolling her eyes upward). I was iin awe, her sense of reality just blew me away!

I'm so thankful that I had a chance to experience & be enriched by Illene. Like a 100 year old tree, she was a treasure not fortgotten & never to be replaced.

CRAIG CESARONE - April 28, 2020 at 10:43 AM

JT

“ Hello Heidi,
I see now where you got your beautiful head of silver hair. It is with deep regret that I offer my condolences in the loss of your mother.

I offer my prayers for comfort and peace to you and to your family during this very difficult time.

May God Bless You.

*Jewell Terrell
UCHC*

Jewell Terrell - April 28, 2020 at 10:34 AM

 Heidi
Coffman

thank you Jewell, so kind of you. Yes my mom's beautiful hair was one of many things that I got from mom, an amazing woman!

Heidi Coffman - April 30, 2020 at 10:28 AM

MB

“ My Aunt Ilene was the last of the five Perrin sisters. She came as a small child fleeing Russian pogroms with my mother Minnie, the infant Sadie and their widowed mother and grandma to Ellis Island. Thanks to our great-uncle David Berger, who sponsored them and others in the family, they settled in Detroit and with their Half sisters Clara and Anne were able to have accomplished and good lives in America. Aunt Ilene was such a vivacious and warm auntie. She welcomed us into her home often for Chanukah and birthday parties, with her dear husband Al. I’m so glad she lived long enough to enjoy her beloved grandchildren. When my mom died a few years ago she said something very touching to me: “your mother gave me my name.” My mom was the eldest and went to school first, and she knew it was important to be as American as possible to avoid being teased. So she changed her little sisters name to an American one, Ilene. My love to Heidi, Amy and Joe, and to all the grandkids.

Misha Berson - April 27, 2020 at 04:10 PM

MM

“ Dear Adam and Family, I am so sorry for your incredible sadness with the loss of your beloved grandmother, Ilene. Your tribute letter to her is beautiful and I can tell she was well loved and loved well. My heart goes out to you all at this sad time of deep grief. With love,
Mary McCloud (a nurse that is lucky to work with Adam at WCHD)

Mary McCloud - April 26, 2020 at 06:59 PM

AP

“ 16 files added to the album *Love you, Grandma*



Adam Paberzs - April 26, 2020 at 12:25 PM

AP

“ *I love you Grandma. Every moment with you was a gift. You never stopped giving and growing, bringing joy to everyone who was lucky enough to be in your orbit. I can't help but smile thinking of the way you cared for and connected with people. I'm so grateful for the lessons you taught me and the ways you helped our family grow. I'll never forget how much fun I had growing up staying with you and Grandpa in the summers, playing in the pool, eating fudgsicles, taking trips to marvin's marvelous mechanical museum :-)* You were always there for me and helped me get through tough times too. I am so lucky that as I grew older we were able to share in so many meaningful life experiences and events together. You made it to every graduation, celebration, Bar and Bat Mitzvah and birthday you possible could. And later in life, I got to watch you become a great grandma and continue giving so much love and joy to the new little members of our family too. Thank you for every moment, every laugh, every hug, and every kiss. I will miss you and keep you in my heart grandma, now and always.

Adam Paberzs - April 26, 2020 at 12:02 PM

LE

“ *Ilene and my mother, Lillian Feldman, were friends for years. I have so many fond memories of her from when I was a little girl up until a few weeks when I last spoke to her while she was playing cards with Heidi. She was still as sharp as ever! I will miss you greatly, Ilene. You were my last life-line to my mom and will be greatly missed.*

Leslie Eller - April 25, 2020 at 07:21 PM

LK

“ *I am so very sorry for your loss. Mrs. Coffman will always hold a special place in my heart, as she taught me to play mahj johngg with Heidi, Amy and Fay Kritzer in 1991 or so. She also bought me my first mahj johngg set, which she found at a garage sale. My thoughts are with all of you. Lisa Kaplan*

Lisa Kaplan - April 25, 2020 at 05:27 PM

JS

“ *Have so many memories when our kids were little and your mom would be over and she was just a joy to talk to. She had so many stories and I loved her sense of humor. I always admired as she got older how sharp she was... never missed a beat. Even when I saw her last at Lily's Seafood she knew me even though it had been a few years since we had seen each other. She was a great lady. She'll be greatly missed. Hugs to you, Craig, Lisa, Joel and Sam.*

Janice Steingold - April 25, 2020 at 04:02 PM



“ Heidi, I mentioned to you the following day that this had happened...One summer day last year a group of residents were sitting outside the "resident's entrance" to the Prentis building in Oak Park. I knew they were from your Mom's floor... I looked around and said- "Hello to Heidi's mother! i know that Heidi C's mother is here".
Your Mom identified her self to me and we had a pleasant chat--- about YOU, of course!! I remember thinking how pretty she was....and alert.

Laura Levine Gumina - April 25, 2020 at 03:41 PM

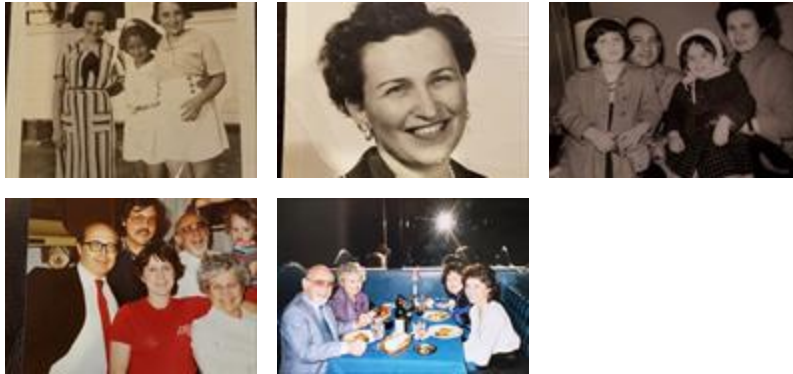
HC

She was Laura, right to the end, so amazing! thank you for sharing!

Heidi Coffman - April 25, 2020 at 04:03 PM

HC

“ 14 files added to the album Heidi Album



Heidi Coffman - April 25, 2020 at 03:02 PM

LT

“ 11 files added to the album Memories Album



Lisa Tencer - April 25, 2020 at 01:33 PM

LT

“ Grandma! We miss you so much already but I'm so grateful for the time we had with you. Your stories, your legacy, your love, your passions and values will live on in all of us. You were a strong and extremely intelligent woman. You grew up in Detroit and had so many fond memories of the city and your childhood. You were very close with your grandmother and your sister Clare and we honor them today as well. We honor your mother Rose as well, an extremely strong woman who made the journey from Russia to the US. You loved to write, to read, to play maj, eat Chinese food and corned beef sandwiches. You were a tough cookie but also had a soft side. You were still running around at age 100 and so sharp too! You were liberal and open minded, you knew that everyone should have human rights no matter who they were. You loved and lost. Your first husband Joe gave you your sweet boys Joey and Denny. Your beloved Al helped you to raise mom and Amy. And you cared for grandpa Al so deeply and meticulously as he lost his memory and grew older. I am so grateful to have gotten to know you in your older years. We will all carry on your legacy, and the compassion and strength that our greater family members had. I know that you are at peace and able to be with Grandpa Al now. Sending you so much love and comfort as you transition from this world. I love you grandma. Thank you for everything you have given us, the gift of life and so much more.

Lisa Tencer - April 25, 2020 at 01:16 PM

BL

“ I loved my cousin Ilene. I remember well when I was younger and my father used to drive us way, way, way out to Franklin Knoll to visit her and Al. The Lodge had not even been built. Our visits were always enjoyable. I was happy to see her, Heidi and Lisa last on Thanksgiving. We again had a good conversation. I will miss her like all those who ever encountered her.

Barry Lepler - April 24, 2020 at 05:09 PM