



Joanne A. Freyer

June 3, 1930 - June 27, 2021

Northampton, MA – Joanne Arlene Appell Freyer, Northampton resident for 30 years, died peacefully in her sleep on June 27th, 2021, just a month after her 91st birthday.

Born Joanne Appell, June 3, 1930, in Terre Haute, Indiana, Joanne was a true force of nature. She was a singer and dancer, crowned Miss Terre Haute 1948 and 4th Runner-Up Miss Indiana. While still in her teens, she moved to NYC to pursue her dreams of being a professional performer. Joanne was a chorus line dancer at the Roxy Theater and performed in many summer stock productions. She was never more alive than when she was singing or on stage.

Though both born Jewish, she met the love of her life, Kenneth Freyer, on a Christian Science Youth Outing while riding the Staten Island Ferry. Shortly after marrying, they agreed they were not religious people and lived their lives as agnostics. They were married 53 years, still in love when Ken passed away 15 years ago.

In 1957, the young couple moved to Port Washington, NY where they had a daughter, Alice, and son, Glen, six years later. Initially a stay-at-home mom, Joanne was devoted to her family. She later worked as a secretary at the local public library and public school system, but she never stopped singing. She performed often at Carnegie Hall with the Collegiate Chorale and acted in local Play Troupe productions. She later sang for years with various groups in the Berkshires including the Young@Heart Chorus.

Joanne had a great sense of humor and lit up when talking to others. She made the best of any situation and was remarkably content with who she was and what she'd accomplished. She loved the water and the outdoors, but was a New York City gal at heart.

She had an incredible sense of direction, literally and figuratively, leading the family through adventures wherever they went. She retained a child-like excitement about people and the world her whole life. Joanne loved interacting with children – the younger the better. She was a devoted grandma and great grandma and is remembered fondly by all.

Six years ago, Joanne moved into a lovely assisted living apartment in the Rockridge Retirement Community and later into their memory care community. Despite her cognitive challenges, she remained a strong personality and was cared for warmly and compassionately by the entire staff. Joanne is survived by her two children, Alice Bonner and Glen Freyer, and their families with 3 loving grandchildren, a great grandchild and another one on the way.

Donations may be made to either the Young@Heart Chorus, 30 North Maple St., Florence, MA 01062, or Rockridge Retirement Community, c/o Acapofreddi@nedeaconess.org.

Tribute Wall

RP

“ Dear Alice (and Glen), I remember singing with your mom with the Berkshire Choral Festival in Europe, including in Prague when she fell getting out of the (terribly designed Eastern European) tub and broke (her wrist?) - oh my! She was a joy to sing with and a firecracker as a person. I also remember the delighted I had, seeing her photo as part of our bank's (Florence Bank) marketing locally. Her energy was always engaging and upbeat and I am sure she will be missed. Much love to you and to all her family who are surely grieving her loss. Rachel Peterson

Rachel Peterson - July 11, 2021 at 06:16 AM

MH

“ Dear Alice
I am so sorry for the loss of your mom. You spoke of her often and with such love. The many stories you shared spoke of an amazing woman. My deepest condolences to you and your family.
Meg Hogan

Meg Hogan - July 01, 2021 at 03:49 AM

MA

“ Alice, Glen and family.
I had the absolute pleasure of taken care of your mom for years at Rockridge. She was the life of the party, she was just pure joy and happiness, her amazing hugs, that beautiful smile, just everything about her! She will be so missed by not only me but every one at Rockridge.
-Marlene

marlene - June 30, 2021 at 04:37 PM

BC

“ Dear Alice,

I am so sorry to hear about your mothers passing. Sending you and your family love and deepest sympathies

Bree Cunningham

Bree Cunningham - June 30, 2021 at 10:26 AM

MB

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy to the family. Joanne and I were neighbors and good friends at Fairway Village. She was delightful. Thank you for such a beautiful tribute and obituary. Madge Briggs. 505 Fairway Village*



Madge Briggs - June 30, 2021 at 08:43 AM

JS

“ Dear Alice and Glen,

I just saw your mom's obit, and I am grieving for sure yet I cannot help but feel her kindness and humor and that she did not suffer fools! I truly loved Joanne and feel very fortunate to have been a part of her life for a few short years.

Alice, my heartfelt condolences. If you need anything at all, do not hesitate to be in touch.

With love, JM

JM Sorrell - June 30, 2021 at 07:33 AM

JR

“ Alice,
Keeping you and your family in my thoughts and prayers. Reading her obituary, I so wish I had known her! She certainly passed on her passion and “force of nature” to her beloved daughter.

janet rico - June 29, 2021 at 06:45 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Drozdal Funeral Home - June 29, 2021 at 01:37 PM