



Julia Ann Epstein

APR 13, 1941 - APR 3, 2026



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Julia Ann Epstein left this world on Friday, 3 April 2026 in Ft Lauderdale, Florida after a brief illness. She was eighty-four. She was born on 13 April 1941 at Brooklyn, NY, the eldest daughter of David Gertler (1903-1982) and Ruth Teiber (1911-1997).

Julia was educated in public schools at Brooklyn & Queens, including Andrew Jackson High School (1957) in Cambria Heights, Queens. She attended Syracuse University from which she earned a BA in 1961. The highlight of her college career was a semester abroad in Florence, Italy which she spoke of throughout her adult life. She later earned a master's degree in Computer Science at Michigan State University in the mid 1980's.

Julia married Joel Jacob Epstein (1937-2023) on 26 August 1962 at Hempstead, New York. Together they had two children: Roy Michael Epstein and Victoria Ann Epstein.

Julia started her work life as a social worker in NYC. She lived in Parsippany, New Jersey. Her 1st child, Roy was born in Livingston, NJ. In 1968 she & her husband & son relocated to Olivet, Michigan, a small college town in south central Michigan. There she took courses at The University of Olivet (Formally Olivet College), got her teaching certificate and began her 28 yearlong teaching career as a 4th and 5th grade teacher in the Olivet School System. Julia had a passion for teaching that went well beyond expectations. She did meticulous prep work & was always the last one in her classroom after school each day. She was known and remembered by her students for doing a play each spring. Plays included The Wizard of Oz, Tom Sawyer, & Charlie & The Chocolate Factory.

Julia was a passionate patron of the arts. She loved theater, musicals, foreign films, and museums. She could easily spend an entire day in a museum and disliked the idea of missing any exhibits. She was an avid reader and some of her favorite books included To Kill A Mockingbird, The Poisonwood Bible, Bel Canto, Cutting For Stone, Miss Morgans Book Brigade, A Doll's House, & Corner of Bitter and Sweet. She traveled extensively throughout her life and was fascinated with



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other cultures and ways of life that were different from hers. She loved all word games and anything that challenged her mind. She was constantly learning and thrived on knowledge. She lived every moment to its fullest and often talked about how precious time was and how every moment was worthy.

She was preceded in death by her husband of sixty-one years, Joel J Epstein. She is survived by her son Roy Epstein of Olivet, Michigan, by her daughter Victoria A Epstein and her husband Matt Wilcox of Portland, Oregon, and by her sister Frances Parisi of Levittown, NY. She is further survived by her nephew Alan David Fass (Nicole) of Merrimack, NH and niece Allyson Dugger-Fass (Lonnie) of Bellmore, NY

A celebration of Julia's life will be held at a later date in Michigan to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, Julia would be pleased if contributions were made to 2 of her favorite places: The Charlotte Community Library. Send donations to: Friends of the Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick, Charlotte, MI 48813 or The Hollywood Art & Culture Center, Hollywood Florida. Donations can be made at this link:

<https://artandculturecenter.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donations>



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Susan Keene posted:

Mrs. Epstein, as she was known to her students, was a favorite teacher of mine when I was just a little one. She taught her students in a way we could understand, with obvious love and a lot of fun. She showered praise for our accomplishments and gently guided us in our mistakes. I remember her really praising me for my reading comprehension as a child. I told her I wanted to "read all of the books." She said, with a chuckle, Suzy, I bet you will!" It's adorable now, but it meant the world to me at the time. I'll never forget her. I'm blessed to know her beautiful daughter, Victoria and I knew her son Roy many years ago. Her memory will always be a blessing to those of us who were lucky enough to meet her in this life. Suzi (Noel)

April 21 at 2:07 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Julia by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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