



## Renee Kapchuk Grutman

July 8, 1949 - May 11, 2020

GRUTMAN, Renee Kapchuk, 70, died peacefully in her home on May 11, 2020 after a wonderful Mother's Day celebration with her family. She was the daughter of two very special people- Anne Stein & Marty Kapchuk. At age 3 her sister Fran Kapchuk (Anderson) was born, and they have been best friends ever since. Over the years their favorite activities may have changed from camp to casinos, but their commitment to each other, family and charity never wavered. They grew up surrounded by love, a million friends, and the very best pickles from Marty's Seashore Pickle Company. Renee attended Sable Palm Elementary, JFK Middle, and Norland High School. As a teen she met two of her dearest friends who are still her friends today, Candi Sharpe and Barbara Malkin. After school Renee worked as a bookkeeper at her uncle Jack Stein's iconic Miami Beach grocery store, Thrifty Supermarket. Thankfully, Uncle Jack never let her pay the bills on time and American Kosher was forced to send their dashing salesman Burt Grutman for collections. Burt fell in love with Renee instantly. After many requests, Renee said yes to their first date at Lion Country Safari. During the date a giraffe sat on their car and would not get off. Burt honked, flashed his lights, used his wipers but nothing worked and that's when Renee knew this was meant to be. In 1975 Burt and Renee got married and moved to Miami Lakes where they had their daughter Stephanie Grutman (Zauder) and son Ian Grutman. Soon after having Ian, the family moved to Cooper City. Living in the "Boonies" so far from her community was very lonely for Renee. Then one day, her only friend in town, Didi Browdy got her involved in PTA. The PTA is where Renee found her life-long home. As Stephanie and Ian grew up, she followed them to Griffin Elementary, Pioneer Middle, and Cooper City HS. Renee's PTA family is where Renee pursued her passion to help kids in need. At Burt and Renee's home, everyone was welcome for as long as they needed. When her sister Fran with husband John (Andy) Anderson and son Scott Anderson moved back South Florida, they lived with Burt and Renee until they found a home of their own. Later when Hurricane Andrew destroyed Kendall, Candi and Barry Sharpe two sons and two dogs lived with Burt and Renee until their home was rebuilt. And throughout the years their beloved nephew and bonus son David Grutman was always there for summers, breaks or just to make Renee laugh. Renee's joy was a home filled with family, friends, laughter, and charity. Burt and Renee were married for 29 years when

Burt passed away in 2004. At the age of 52, Renee started her life over working at Dillards and with County Commissioner Lois Wexler while continuing her volunteer work for kids and campaigns. Eventually Renee turned her passion for kids into her profession by working at Cypress Bay HS, Piper HS, and most recently a joint position with Apollo Middle and McCarthur High School. Renee continued her volunteer work on the Broward Education Foundation and the PTA. If you spent a minute with Renee, then you know her proudest achievement in the world was her family, children, and grandchildren. Renee's memory will be cherished always by Fran & Scott Anderson; Stephanie, Jason, Brooke & Adam Zauder; Ian Grutman; and David, Isabela, Kaia, & Vida Grutman; and the thousands of friends whose lives she touched. Due to covid-19 Memorial Services will be held virtually on Thursday, May 14 at 11:00 am via zoom and the family has asked for donations to the Renee & Burt Grutman Memorial fund <http://www.BrowardedFoundation.org/ReneeAndBurt> in lieu of Shiva food or flowers so they continue Renee's legacy of helping kids in need. Arrangements by Levitt-Weinstein Blasberg-Rubin-Zilbert (305) 932-2700

# Comments

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“ Rare is the woman who lifts up everyone she meets. Lifts their spirit by her humor and warmth. Lifts their purpose by her example and drive. Lifts their confidence by her interest and concern. Lifts their energy by her light and momentum. Renee had that gift. It came from that well of love she had for everyone, and that is why everyone loved her.

Thank you Renee, for every single uplifting moment you gave to us. Thank you for sharing your loving heart, you have touched ours and we will miss you.

Margie and Frank Ventura

Margie Ventura - May 13, 2020 at 09:00 PM

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“ I remember the words Renee said to me after the second time my late husband Steve cancelled a date with me! (With a very lame excuse at the eleven hour) I called Renée right after he called to complain about this guy! The first words out of her mouth were I have a feeling you're going to marry this guy!! I thought she was nuts but of course Renée was right! We just recently renewed our friendship and my heart is broken that it wasn't sooner!! Will miss our three hour talks till midnight! Love you my friend, Dorré

Dorré Snyder - May 13, 2020 at 08:21 PM

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“ Nothing in this world can describe a person like Renee. As a dear friend, we had been in close proximity from the time their family lived in North Miami Beach, Norland, and on to Cooper City. One of the best attributes about Renee was her selfless spirit, which trickled throughout SW Broward first and expanded throughout the state of Florida to National PTA. It was a good 38!years of volunteerism and her spirit will live on in children, schools, politics, and her greatest love, her children and family, especially her sister. I never knew sisters to be like Renee and Fran, very devoted to one another, especially when Renee's husband, Burt passed and then her sister's husband years ago. RIP, Renee, your legacy precedes you and Heaven has gotten an angel to watch over all of us; may your memory be for eternal blessings to all that love and know you! AL

Didi Browdy - May 13, 2020 at 07:19 PM

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**Didi Browdy** - May 13, 2020 at 07:17 PM