



Gary Ethan Klein

JUL 30, 1949 - JUN 21, 2024



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Gary E. Klein (GK), 74, of Rehoboth Beach, DE and Annapolis, MD, passed away on June 21, 2024, leaving behind a void in the lives of all who were lucky enough to have known him.

Born and raised in Queens, NY, Gary is survived by his wife, Jef Feldman, of 45 years; three devoted children, Cortney (Marc) Gurau, Sam Klein, and Max (Jaime) Klein. With the birth of his first grandchild Kelin, Gary would forever be known as GK. He proceeded to have seven (soon to be eight) grandchildren, Kelin, Edison and Coco Gurau, Madelyn and Cameryn Klein, and Ben and Emma Klein. GK was the cornerstone of a tight-knit extended family that he carefully built and carved over his lifetime. He had a large circle of friends who will forever remember his sharp wit, deadpan humor, his affinity for bow ties, and his love of single malt scotch.

After working as an attorney, GK started his own business as a legal recruiter. He quickly discovered that it was best for him to be his own boss, and for the last 42 years, that is what he was. GK had the uncanny ability to read people and to facilitate deals. His grit and perseverance made a lasting impact on the lives of those he worked with.

GK loved to make people laugh and his comedic timing was unmatched. He had a knack for sarcastic one-liners and the ability to diffuse any situation with humor and intellect. Moreover, GK was an active listener, always available should you need him, never afraid to give honest advice even if not solicited. He loved to talk about the O's and hear about his grandchildren. At parties, it was always about politics or fine wine.

GK leaves behind a legacy of intellectual curiosity and literary appreciation. His love for reading not only enriched his own life but also those around him. On any given day you could expect him to read The New York Times cover-to-cover and send you an article he thought might be of interest. He took delight in challenging his family and friends with uncommon and complex dictionary words and correcting misused grammar. He found daily pleasure in competing against his family and friends in Wordle and Connections.



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While his family was his top priority, he also cherished his time at the club, enjoying golf. Admittedly never a great golfer, his love for the game was more about the camaraderie and quality time spent with loved ones. GK had great enthusiasm for the Orioles, especially a good pitching duel. Sundays were dedicated to the Ravens and the tradition of calling his sons afterwards to debrief on the game's outcome. He never failed to trash talk his family in the event they made poor picks in the family's football pool.

Our family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to GK's extraordinary circle of friends who were like family to him. They shared countless adventures, celebrated milestones together, and provided unwavering support during difficult times. Their laughter echoed through the years, and their companionship was a source of strength and comfort.

GK's life was profoundly enriched by his children and subsequently by his grandchildren. He was a father like no other, truly one of one. His daughter Cortney held a special place in his heart bringing him unparalleled happiness. No one could make him happier than she could. To his sons, Sam, and Max, GK was a mentor, coach, and confidant. To them, GK was their best friend. With all his grandchildren, he held an extraordinary and deeply affectionate bond. GK was always finding ways to create memories at the beach, whether it be early morning seashell hunts, water races at the club pool, or biscuit making. Memories that will no doubt last them a lifetime. After 45 years together, he still doted on his wife Jef with enduring love, friendship, and devotion. Up until his last breath, he loved her to the fullest.

GK's home at the beach was his sanctuary. He was happiest there with Jef and the dogs. His shelves were filled with books, fine wines, and single malt scotches. His walls filled with memories and laughter. Though we bid farewell with heavy hearts, we find solace in knowing he meant so much to so many. Forever in our hearts and minds, he will be greatly missed.

A private Celebration of Life will be held in Gary's honor at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to <https://www.humaneanimalpartners.org/give/give-now/>.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



Tribute Wall

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SB

Stephen Bates shared a photo to the **Ravens** album.



August 29 at 5:06 AM

BM

Bruce Menditch posted:

I met Gary when he first started his new life in Rehoboth Beach. I can only say that I miss him very much and loved this man for his wisdom, humor, insight and kindness given to his family and friends. Your loving friend forever, Bruce

August 5 at 6:16 PM

TD

Tina Desmond shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I'm so very sad that Gary is gone. We became friends when I started personal training him in the RBCC gym. He was skeptical that I would be able to make him stronger and hit the golf ball longer. I challenged him with crazy exercises and he put his trust in my knowledge of core stability. His golf buddies were amazing at his longer drives and better scores. One of my favorite memories was playing with Gary the day he had a hole in one on #5 hole. "Gary and the girls" celebrated his accomplishment with drinks at the bar after the round. I will miss you Gary.



June 27 at 4:00 PM

AK

Aida Keehner posted:

This breaks my heart. I have very fond memories with Gary especially because it was around my first years in being in this country. We have had many laughs too. I will continue to cherish these memories. My deepest condolences to all family and friends...

July 1 at 12:53 PM



Tribute Wall

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BS

Brian J. Steffan Steffanco posted:

I am devastated to hear this sad news. Gary was an instrumental force in bringing my mother to the Washington DC area in the late 80s. My mother, Gloria Steffan, worked for Klein, Landau and Romm for many years until she retired. Gary's kindness, sense of humor, and devotion, stuck with her to the end of her life. Gary was an incredible man, and the world was a better place with him in it. My deepest condolences to his family and friends.

July 1 at 12:33 PM

YG

Yvette Hamill-Graves posted:

One of the most powerful, ever-present influences in my life. Sincerely heartbroken by his passing. What a wonderful human being.

July 1 at 11:54 AM

BK

Bruce I Katz posted:

Gary's obituary shared the story of a life built around family and filled with joy. Heidi and I recall Gary fondly. Gary was unique in that he made those around him both laugh and think. I can attest that Gary was always a willing athlete in both golf and tennis. With a smile in my heart, I can imagine Gary asking me to change the word "athlete" to "participant". I thank Gary and Jef for the contribution they made to the lives of others. We may be sad today as we miss Gary, but in the days ahead memories of Gary will undoubtedly result in warmth and smiles. With love, Bruce and Heidi Katz

June 30 at 12:26 PM

CB

Caryn Bernstein lit a candle in honor of Gary.

What a beautiful obituary. I was Jef's roommate in college and she dated a lot. Guys always were drawn to her. But once she met Gary I could tell that this was the one. He made her laugh often and she was impressed with his intellect. Their relationship was very symbiotic- they were able to give each other what they needed and/or wanted without diminishing themselves in any way. Caryn



June 27 at 4:00 PM



Media

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Stephen Bates shared a photo to the **Ravens** album.

August 29 at 5:06 AM



Gary loved his Ravens



Media

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Tina Desmond shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

July 7 at 3:03 AM





Media

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TD





Memories only last if you share them

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



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