



Sheila Klein

July 16, 1927 - April 19, 2025

Sheila Alice (Jenson) Klein was born July 16, 1927, on the family farm in Providence Township in Buena Vista County, two and a half miles northwest of Newell, Iowa. She was the daughter of Walter DeWitt Jenson and Edelia (Bodholdt) Jenson. She passed away with family present on April 19, 2025, in her home of sixty-nine years on East Lake Okoboji outside Spirit Lake, Iowa. A visitation will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025, at the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. A private family burial will be held in the Lake View Cemetery in Spirit Lake. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Sheila attended Providence Consolidated School in Sulphur Springs, Iowa, from which she graduated valedictorian in 1945. She especially enjoyed playing basketball for Providence High School. Her senior year the Providence team won the Buena Vista County tournament and a game in the sectionals. She was on the first team for several years in junior and senior high school and played as one of three forwards. In the school band she played the timpani and with her two sisters sang as a trio. She also played the piano and surprised herself with a first place in the Newell Talent Show. After high school Sheila completed the two-year teacher training course at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, earning her associate's degree in 1946. She fondly remembers art classes, playing in an exhibition basketball game for the college, and performing in a play with the BV Players.

Her first teaching employment was as a fifth-grade teacher in Spirit Lake from 1946 to 1948. It was there at a high school football game that she met her future husband Dr. Alfred Libby Klein who had just opened his optometric practice in 1947. They were married on June 5, 1948, at the First Congregational Church in Newell and celebrated their seventy-first wedding anniversary in 2019.

Sheila and Alfred had six children: Sheryl (Henry) Hall, Spirit Lake; Alfred Libby Klein, Jr. (Sue Iwen Booth) Sherburn, MN; Deborah (Dr. Kenneth) Thompson, Gardner, KS; Barbara (Dennis) Mochal, Stilwell, KS; Cara (Mike) Scalcucci, Bradenton, FL; and Dr. Trisha Werner (Paul Ysebaert) Sarasota, FL. Sheila believed her greatest achievement was raising their children. Her children remember fondly her creativity making costumes, her music on the piano and spinet organ, her interest in history and nature, and boat rides to Gull Point.

For more than ten years, Sheila worked as the bookkeeper for Optometric Associates in Spirit Lake. In addition, she spent much of her time volunteering as a Sunday school teacher and a member of the altar guild at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, for Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts, for the hospital auxiliary, as a Ground Observer Corps member, for various school support groups and bond issues, and for teenage pageants. Sheila was also a member of L.B.U., served as President of Chapter BE of P.E.O., and was a member of Eastern Star and the Iowa Optometric Auxiliary. In 1969 she was honored as The University of Iowa Mother of the Year.

Sheila is survived by her six children and their families, including 9 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren, and a sister Sonya Rae Blinkinsop, Winston-Salem, NC. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Alfred, her sister Yvonne Nadine Peek, and her grandson Seth Tyler Thompson. The family of Sheila Klein can be reached at PO Box 145, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360. Memorials may be directed to the Spirit Lake Community School Foundation at PO Box 46, Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

Cemetery Details

Lake View Cemetery

2684 18th Street
Spirit Lake, IA

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Robinson Funeral Home
2317 32nd Street
Spirit Lake, IA 51360
robinson@spiritlekefuneralhome.com
<http://www.spiritlekefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Robinson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sheila Klein*



Robinson Funeral Home - April 28, 2025 at 01:11 PM

BP

Great pictures. Great lady. Great life. What a wonderful, classy matriarch for a wonderful, classy family.

Bill Phelps - April 30, 2025 at 08:49 AM

DE

“ *Sending my thoughts and prayers as you celebrate the life of your beautiful mother. Sheryl you have the lovely qualities of your mother and have passed them to your family. A mother's love is forever in our hearts.*

Dianne Elton - May 02, 2025 at 02:56 PM

WM

“ *With love~ Mark, Lisa & Elizabeth Moylan purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Sheila Klein.*



With love~ Mark, Lisa & Elizabeth Moylan - May 02, 2025 at 08:48 AM

WM

“ With love~ Mark, Lisa & Elizabeth Moylan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sheila Klein.

With love~ Mark, Lisa & Elizabeth Moylan - May 02, 2025 at 08:48 AM

TF

“ The Joe and Sara Rajcevich Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sheila Klein.

The Joe and Sara Rajcevich Family - April 30, 2025 at 02:36 PM

TF

“ The Joe and Sara Rajcevich Family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Sheila Klein.



The Joe and Sara Rajcevich Family - April 30, 2025 at 02:36 PM

BT

“ Bruce Thompson lit a candle in memory of Sheila Klein



Bruce Thompson - April 27, 2025 at 09:07 PM

TM

“ Cheryl, so sad to hear of your mother's death. She was and is a sweet, lovely woman. Fr, Carl

*Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon her.
May her soul, and the souls of all the faith departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

The Rev. Carl Mann - April 27, 2025 at 09:09 AM

PM

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family. Dr. Paul and Patricia Martin

Patricia Martin - April 25, 2025 at 06:06 PM

JC

“ Jeff & Linda Christoffer sent a virtual gift in memory of Sheila Klein



Jeff & Linda Christoffer - April 25, 2025 at 03:00 PM

WK

“ *The Klein family is one that we Spirit Lake families have always cherished, and much of the reason for that is because of how Sheila and Alfred not only raised their wonderful six children; but, also knew the meaning of being part of the village in cheering on others in the community. We personally witnessed that as we grew up in Spirit Lake with many of the Klein children in our same classes at school, but especially during the times when our parents were facing challenges in their later years. We will forever be thankful for the kindness and support given us by the Kleins. This obituary written in dedication to Sheila is a perfect tribute to a beautiful lady and deeply caring woman. Know that there are many, many people who are now finding their hearts filled with memories of such genuine kindness given them by Sheila. Our prayers and sympathies to the Klein family.*



Wayne and Diana (Doocy) Koppen - April 24, 2025 at 09:21 PM

SO

“ *What a wonderful community contributor, musician, athlete, historian, wife, and mother. Her spirit lives on in her children and grandchildren. Sending big hugs and love to my dear friend Sheryl.*

Susie Olesen - April 23, 2025 at 10:32 AM

TS

“ *Sharing our loving prayers with your family!* 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻

Terry & Stevie Shively - April 23, 2025 at 10:25 AM

MS

“ *Marge Schneidawind lit a candle in memory of Sheila Klein*



Marge Schneidawind - April 22, 2025 at 04:57 PM

MS

Deepest Sympathy to the Klein Family. Friends for many years. She will be missed.

Marge Schneidawind - April 22, 2025 at 05:09 PM

KE

“ ~ To The Klein Family ~

I was saddened to learn of your loss. She will truly be missed by many family and friends. My heart and prayers go out to you.

🌹 IF CAN BE A MIRACLE 🌹

If we are here on earth to see only one blue sky and a beautiful sunshine filled day, it's a miracle.

If we have the chance to once hold a newborn baby in our arms, it's a miracle.

If we have the opportunity to share our love with someone else, it's a miracle.

If by luck alone we have that special gift or talent, it's a miracle.

If our friends are there in both good times and bad, it's a miracle.

If it's God's fate to shorten our lives, may we only think of all the good fortune we have had, for it was a miracle.

By Konnie Sue (Klein) Egertson

Konnie Sue (Klein) Egertson - April 22, 2025 at 10:13 AM

FF

“ Fred Kaminska Karrie Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Sheila Klein



Fred Kaminska Karrie Ferguson - April 21, 2025 at 09:39 PM

TL

“ *The Book Club Ladies planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sheila Klein.*

The Book Club Ladies - April 21, 2025 at 08:36 PM

TL

“ *The Book Club Ladies purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Sheila Klein.*



The Book Club Ladies - April 21, 2025 at 08:36 PM

RS

“ *Sheryl, I'm Sooo very Sorry for the loss of your Mother, She was such a Beautiful and Sweet woman. Losing your parents is difficult, at Any age So many memories are left with you and both your parents have left you with a wonderful legacy. My thoughts and Prayers are with You and Your Entire family during this very difficult time 🙏👉❤️*



Ruth Shaffer-Albrant - April 21, 2025 at 05:22 PM

CF

“ *Colleen J Frederick lit a candle in memory of Sheila Klein*



Colleen J Frederick - April 21, 2025 at 05:04 PM

CF

What a beautiful person and a great Mother! Spent my fair share of time with Barb & her family growing up.

Colleen J Frederick - April 21, 2025 at 05:06 PM

MC

“*Jim and I extend our deepest condolences to Sheila’s family! She was such a beautiful, kind and gentle woman! She was blessed with a wonderful family, and a great life! May she Rest in Peace!* 🙏❤️✝️



Mary Christianson - April 21, 2025 at 11:24 AM

BP

“*Brent & Sherry Peek purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Sheila Klein.*



Brent & Sherry Peek - April 21, 2025 at 10:59 AM

JD

“*What a sweet, beautiful lady. Sheila was a presence whenever we saw her. We have always admired her grace and her friendship. Our hearts go out to her family. She will be greatly missed. Deenie and Jim*

Jim and Deenie - April 21, 2025 at 09:01 AM

PR

“ Prayers to the Klein family. Remember her well at the office and parent teacher conferences. Always a class act!



Peggy Rick - April 20, 2025 at 09:55 PM

LK

“ So very sorry for the loss of Sheila. May our Heavenly Father wrap his loving arms around you and give you peace and comfort. 🙏



Linda Klein - April 20, 2025 at 08:00 PM

DB

“ I'm sorry to hear of your loss. My sympathy to your family.



Dayle Broocks - April 20, 2025 at 07:56 PM

BS

“ Brenda, Robin, Yvette and Stacey purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Sheila Klein.



Brenda, Robin, Yvette and Stacey - April 20, 2025 at 07:24 PM