



Joan Ruth Michals

May 3, 1927 - January 4, 2026

Joan Ruth Michals died on January 4, 2026. She was 98 years old. Joan was born in Lima, Ohio to Simon and Clara (Michel) Fishel. She is predeceased by her brothers Leonard and Walter (Leona) Fishel as well as her beloved twin sister Jean (Dan) Caplan. She and her twin sister remained extremely close until Jean's passing four years ago.

Unusually for her era, Joan attended The Ohio State University where she studied art. She also attended the Vogue School of Fashion Design in Chicago. She married her husband Herbert Michals and raised her family in Cleveland. The family had three children, including: Simone; Bruce (Kathy); and Douglas Alan (deceased). She was particularly close with her niece and nephew Michelle and Simon. She was also the beloved grandmother to Adam (Johnna) Danes and Carly Danes, as well as great grandmother to Caleb and Carson Danes.

Joan was a lover of art and music and was beloved by family and her many friends. She enjoyed cooking beautiful Friday night dinners and hosting guests at her home. She was viewed by many as the matriarch of the family. Joan was a strong advocate for women's rights and served as a council woman for many years in University Heights.

Joan remained remarkably sharp and active until very late in her life. She had

a lasting impact on those around her and was beloved by the other residents of Vidalia Solon as well as her caregiving team.

A graveside funeral will take place at Bet Olam Cemetery (25796 Chagrin Blvd, Beachwood, OH 44122) on Thursday January 8th at 11:00 AM. The family will be host shiva at Vitalia Solon (6050 Kruse Dr, Solon, OH 44139) from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on that same day. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Medina Creative Housing/ Creative Living for Life (<https://www.medinacreativehousing.com/UrsulineSisters/CommunityCenter>).

Cemetery Details

Bet Olam

25796 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122
jghiandoni@gmail.com

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bet Olam
25796 Chagrin Boulevard
Beachwood, OH 44122
jghiandoni@gmail.com

Shiva

JAN 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

SHIVA - VITALIA SOLON
6050 Kruse Drive
Solon, OH 44139

Tribute Wall

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“ *Beverly Noel lit a candle in memory of Joan Ruth Michals*



Beverly Noel - January 06 at 06:26 PM