



## Joyce Donnelly

July 16, 1930 - May 7, 2026

Joyce Donnelly passed away on May 7, 2026. She was 95 years old. Joyce was born in Peekskill, NY, on July 16, 1930. She is predeceased by her parents, August and Lucia (Raymond) Hiland. She is also predeceased by her brother Lewis (Angie) Hiland.

Joyce attended high school in Peekskill and later attended Cornell University. She moved to Cleveland in the 1950's, where she met and married Gilbert Donnelly (deceased). Although they would later divorce, the couple is survived by their son, Bruce. Later in life, Joyce met Amy Gorn (deceased), who became her longtime companion and partner for over two decades. Joyce and Amy enjoyed traveling and nature during the time they spent lovingly together.

Joyce was a caring and compassionate person in both her personal and professional life. She strongly believed in Tikkun Olam and marched for civil rights. She worked for a time at a girls' reformatory in New York State and later worked for nearly 30 years at the Bellefaire School in University Heights. Joyce's kindness and compassion were not limited to people. She was an avid nature lover and birdwatcher, with interests in fish, birds, and reptiles.

Joyce was a devoted member of Chevrei Tikva, a synagogue specializing in outreach to LGBTQ+ members and friends, which eventually became a Chavurah at Fairmount Temple (now Mishkan Or). Joyce was literally a

lifelong learner. She actively participated in a women's Torah study group for the past 20 years, continuing even after it moved online due to COVID.

There will be a memorial ceremony at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes (2600 S. Park Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44120) on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 3 PM.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Joyce's memory may be made to the Jewish Family Service Association (JFSA) and/or the Carter Center

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 17. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Nature Center at Shaker Lakes  
2600 South Park Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44120  
<http://shakerlakes.org>