



Joan Miller Calder

October 30, 1939 - July 14, 2017

Joan Miller Calder chaired her final board meeting on July 14, 2017. She passed away peacefully. Joan has undoubtedly picked up in heaven where she left off on Earth. By now Heaven has new loving, compassionate, social working, flute playing, music loving, sailing, knitting, swimming angel.

Joan was an amazing woman and will be missed by all who had the chance to know her. She was born in Syracuse New York on 10/30/39 to Marjorie and John Miller. Joan graduated from Bloomfield College in 1961. Shortly after graduation she married Don Calder on June 24th, 1961. They recently celebrated their 56 anniversary.

Joan was involved in various volunteer positions including 200 Club, where she was president, the Junior League, Girl Scouts and various family and child welfare organizations on the local, state and national level. Joan's volunteer activities led her to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work from Fordham University. She worked as Social Worker for Children's Aid and Adoption Society and was the Executive Director for the League for Family Services for 11 years.

When Joan retired she continued with her volunteer activities. She also returned to playing her flute and taking lessons. Joan played with the Skaneateles Community Band and the Lee County Community Band.

Through the encouragement of her flute teacher, Bill Larsen, Joan joined the Southwest Symphony Society in 2007. In 2010 she was the president of the Society and in 2012 Joan was recognized as the member of the year. She also served on the board for the Southwest Florida Symphony, most recently as the Chair of the Governance Committee.

Joan also enjoyed sailing with her husband, Don. They took several long trips and many day and overnight trips. Joan and Don's boat, Dreamcaught, took first place several times in the holiday boat parade. Joan served as the first woman Commodore of the Boardwalk Caper Yacht Club.

Joan split her time between Fort Myers Beach, Florida and Owasco Lake in Upstate New York. She grew up on Owasco Lake in the summers and her and Don purchased a house on the lake in 1969. Joan always look forward to returning "home" in the summers.

Joan is survived by her husband Don, children Don Calder and his wife Kelli, Jeanette Calder Burhans and her husband Dave, grandchildren Heather and Grace Burhans and Emily and Will Calder, brother John Miller and sister in law Sue Miller, and several nieces and a nephew.

Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to the Southwest Symphony Society or Chapel By the Sea.

Tribute Wall



“ *Joan Miller Calder*

October 09, 2023 at 02:01 AM



“ *Joan Miller Calder*

January 28, 2023 at 12:09 PM



“ *Joan was always such a bright light and she lit up every room she was in. Her symphony leadership, terrific ideas and talents added so much to the groups and her love of music and support with Don inspired us all. I'll always remember when Joan conducted the orchestra as an auction fundraiser item. She had so much fun and had a blast. Her cowgirl costume with a stick horse brought the house down right away as she galloped to the podium. I will miss seeing Joan at concerts and events and her memory and legacy will be with us all for years.*



Keep playing your flute for us, Joan. We'll always know it's you when we hear an angel playing.

Katherine Caldwell - July 24, 2017 at 05:48 PM

JH

“Joan was a wonderful caring friend. We shared so much, especially during her year as President. I was her Recording Secretary and not a very good one. She encouraged me to continue by saying that whatever I wrote would be good enough and she liked it short and concise. We had an extraordinary year financially with two award winning projects and we both went to Dallas.

I spent the Friday morning before Joan was hospitalized with her working on a new project. She never hesitated to help and always had pertinent thoughts to add. I will miss my dear Joan. She was so looking forward to her Granddaughters graduation, she was so proud of her family. The love that she and Don shared was obvious to all.

*My thoughts and prayers are with all who loved her.
Very sincerely,
Jane Richards Hudson*

Jane Richards Hudson - July 22, 2017 at 09:23 PM

MS

“Joan was a caring and energetic member of the Southwest Florida Symphony. I met her as a member of the society myself and participated with her in some of the treats at her home and other projects. Please accept my sympathy in her passing. She will be missed.

Madeline Seefeld

Madeline Seefeld - July 21, 2017 at 01:31 PM