



## Joann Shapiro

April 8, 1932 - January 14, 2026

Joann Shapiro, 93, a long-time resident of Hinman Ave. in Evanston, passed away peacefully on January 14, 2026, at Trulee Evanston. Born on April 8, 1932, in Chicago, Illinois, Joann lived a life surrounded by creativity, political activism, and family.

Joann grew up in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago and attended Senn High School. As a young adult, she worked at Second City, where she was trained by Viola Spolin and became an actor. Later, she directed the Second City Children's Theater. She went on to teach at Columbia College in Chicago, training students in improvisational theater.

Joann also served for many years as president of Ibid Inc., the first conceptual stock photo agency. The company was founded by her husband, Morton Shapiro, and under Joann's leadership it became an important creative force in the industry.

She was also one of the founders of the Evanston Free School, an independent alternative school that educated children from kindergarten through high school. Her concern for social justice and political change was an ongoing theme throughout her life.

Joann was predeceased by her husband Morton and is survived by her

children and their spouses: David, Eve (Scott White), Anna (Ian Barford), and Max (Bonnie Shapiro). She also leaves behind beloved grandchildren: Millie, Owen, Lucy, Benjamin, Julia, Sophie, Olivia, and Giovanni. She spent her final days surrounded by their love and care.

A Memorial Gathering will be held on January 23, 2026, from 04:00 PM to 08:00 PM at Trulee Evanston 1815 Norwood Ct. Evanston, Illinois.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

JAN **23**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Trulee Evanston  
1815 Norwood Ct.  
Evanston, IL 60201

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ Sharene P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Shapiro.

Sharene P. - January 23 at 11:40 AM

RL

“ Richard L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Shapiro.

Richard L. - January 22 at 03:18 PM

BC

“ Bobby C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Shapiro.

Bobby C. - January 22 at 03:14 PM

CR

“ Chris Rock planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Shapiro.

Chris Rock - January 21 at 04:53 PM

CR

“ Chris Rock purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Joann Shapiro.



Chris Rock - January 21 at 04:53 PM

SK

“ *Stu and Penny Katz planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Joann Shapiro.*

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**Stu and Penny Katz** - January 19 at 10:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joann Shapiro.*



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January 19 at 10:20 PM