



Anna Marie Lee

November 21, 1931 - October 29, 2015

Anna Marie Lee passed away on October 29, 2015 after a valiant battle with leukemia. She leaves behind a legacy of love that will forever stay with the friends and family who were fortunate enough to have been a part of her life.

Anna was born in Poorman Side, Pennsylvania and was valedictorian of her graduating class at Snow Shoe High School. She grew up in a family of eight children. She married Stephen Charles Montgomery Lee in 1958 and became a busy mother of five children while also working night shift to help support her family. In 1979 her family moved to San Jose, California. Her love of books and children eventually led her to a career as a Media Resource Specialist with the San Jose Unified School District. At the young age of 73 she completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Library Science at San Jose State University in 2005. Her retirement years were spent bringing joy to the lives of her adult children and grandchildren. Anna loved books and was a voracious reader. She also loved spending time with family, doing crossword puzzles, and laughing.

Anna is predeceased by her beloved husband Stephen. She is survived by her children: Michele O'Leary (Michael) of Redding, CA, Ruth Lee Markel of New Milford, CT, Philip Lee of Magnolia, MS, Stephen Lee of San Jose, CA, and Kathryn Kaye (Jonathan) of Fremont, CA; and by her grandchildren: Erin, Brianna, Connor, Edward, Christopher, Andrea, Ethan, and Wyatt.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service for Anna on Wednesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the Fremont Memorial Chapel located at 3723 Peralta Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536. Inurnment at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA.

Please share memories of Anna on this memorial website. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in memory of Anna to the American Cancer Society. <https://donate.cancer.org/index>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **11**. 11:00 AM (PT)

Fremont Memorial Chapel

3723 Peralta Boulevard

Fremont, CA 94536

1-510-793-8900

fremontchapeloftheroses@yahoo.com

<https://www.fremontmemorialchapel.com>

Tribute Wall

“In true Lee/Baranak fashion I should have written this 2 minutes ago in the bathroom. This was how my beloved mother wrote her valedictorian speech for her high school graduation. But I am not nearly as clever or spontaneous as she was. I am also a bit more prompt and thanks to my phone I do not get lost.

My mother Anna was a wonderful lady. She was the antithesis of unconditional love. No matter how badly you screwed up you knew that she would always love you. That love is the legacy that I will carry with me. The memories of her love, intelligence and sense of humor will sustain me and help me be a more compassionate person.

That is not to say that this sweet lady was not without her flaws. Many was the time that procrastination played a major role in her life. A famous quote of hers was “no matter how late you are to something someone will always be later.” We Lee children often proved this wrong with the combination of my mother’s somewhat delayed sense of timing and her lack of direction.

This procrastination contributed to the famous Easter buckets of our childhood. A certain Easter bunny waited a bit too long shop so for Easter so in the place of baskets we had buckets; so much more practical and we were already set for the beach for the coming summer. That same Easter Bunny came hopping down the hall inspiring us to think that perhaps with the loud footsteps it was the Easter Elephant.

She was brilliant though. She had an amazing mind and was a member of MENSA which is some type of organization for the extremely intelligent. Anna was by the far the most well read person I knew. She loved her collections of books. One of my personal favorites was her collections of cookbooks that she never used to cook with. But she certainly enjoyed reading them. Giving away any books was a crime, even if you were tripping over the stacks in her house that she had already read. We would have to sneak them out when she was away visiting Kathryn or on one of her trips back East.

My mom loved her grandchildren. She loved them so much that the word discipline did not really exist in her vocabulary. The kind and

gentle mother that guided us was a total marshmallow when it came to her grandchildren. Erin, Brianna and Connor have been truly blessed to have her be such a major part of their lives. As have been Michael and I. Granny sleep-overs gave us date nights and some much appreciated rest. We had a "don't ask- don't tell" unspoken rule with our kids about what they ate and how late they got to stay up.

Michael always had someone to laugh at his jokes no matter how bad they were. Anna loved her son-in-law and sometimes got along so much better with him than her own daughter. He was the calm voice of reason to my nagging about various things that were good for her. None of which she was particularly interested in.

So many precious memories. Though they will never replace her hugs or kisses on the cheek I will wrap these memories around me like a warm blanket when I am missing her and needing to remind myself of the great gift I was given. When I used to joke about becoming my mother I would laugh about the fact that I love Big Lots and the Dollar store. She took my children on many adventures to these stores to buy me gifts for various occasions. What I know in my heart is that if I could actually become my mother and be the compassionate and kind person that she was it would be a really wonderful thing.

Thank you all for sharing this time with us to remember a truly lovely lady. Love you Mom. Love, Miche



Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 08:24 PM

MO

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:25 PM

MO

This video is lovingly dedicated to our wonderful mom. We will carry her in our hearts and in our memories forever.

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:28 PM

LK

“ *The King family will miss Granny so much. She was such a lovely lady - always with a smile on her face. Her eyes were filled with so much love. Our trip to Hawaii with her will always be a special memory. Jason has always thought of her as one of his grandmas! Miss you Granny/Anna!!*



lisa king - November 11, 2015 at 11:06 AM

MO

Thank you so much for your wonderful thoughts and for being at her service.

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:49 PM

MT

“ *Jim and Mary Jane Temple*

We have so many fond memories of Anna. Whenever we came to visit we were greeted with a warm hug, bright smile, and a compliment too good to be true. Anna's heart was large and matched by her intellect. She was so unassuming, it was easy to forget what an amazing mind she had until she made a comment that reminded you.

At a recent family event, it was touching to see throughout the course of the evening how each grandchild sought Anna out to share a conversation, some affection, or just sit by her--she was and is beloved.

A favorite memory of Anna is from Michele's and Michael's wedding day. About two hours prior to the wedding, and pictures yet to be taken, Anna was in her kitchen preparing lasagna for the reception. She was wearing shorts and a t-shirt. Minutes later she was fully and beautifully dressed--transformed into the Mother of the Bride! This was downright jaw-dropping impressive. One of Anna's gifts was her serene presence. We will miss her deeply.

Mary Jane Temple - November 11, 2015 at 02:32 AM

MO

Love you guys and she loved you all too.

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:50 PM

ME

“ Thank you for posting such a heartfelt memorial for a wonderful and vibrant woman. Anna was a very important part of my childhood and I have nothing but fond memories of her. Seeing these more recent photos reminds me of just how much zest for life Anna had. She truly radiated and held such compassion for those around her and her enthusiasm was contagious. I'm very sorry the world has lost such a wonderful soul but thankful for the time I spent with her. She was a very large source of comfort to me and I'll never forget her.

Melissa - November 10, 2015 at 01:22 AM

MO

I hope you are doing well Melissa. My mom cared about you a great deal. Michele

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:48 PM

LK

“ I remember two stories told to me by Anna one afternoon in 2010 as we had lunch outside by the pool.
- She said that her family always had food during the Depression because she grew up on a farm, in Pennsylvania.
-And that she got her first car at the age of 16! A four-door Model A Ford -- for \$35!
Her brother had first taught her to drive and she followed that up with a Drivers Ed course at school. When she bought the car, the owner/salesman said that car is older than you!

leslie kaye - November 08, 2015 at 06:42 PM

MO

Ah Les, you were one of her daughters as well. Thank you for being such a loving part of her life.

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:51 PM

UJ

“ It was 1958, I believe, brother Steve and Anna got married in Bridgeport, Conn. One of my duties was to laydown a long white linen in the church isle for them to walk on. After a fancy breakfast.....Uncle Frank and I were in charge in taken care of cleaning up after they took off on a skiing honeymoon. Yes, it was quite awhile ago!
Uncle John

Uncle John - November 07, 2015 at 09:36 AM

MO

Thank you Uncle Johnny. She loved you and Aunt Pat and the kids dearly. I have a wonderful picture of the wedding party that I will send you. Much love, Miche

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:53 PM

LK

“ Anna was a special person. Smart, warm, easy-going. Always interested in what you were doing, she asked lots of questions, and seemed to get a kick out of everyone. She was always so kind, and lovely.
Including the few pics I have taken at Ethan's First Holy Communion, and at his 12th birthday party at I-fly (Gran is seated with Brianna). I wish I had one from Wyatt's First Holy Communion this year. She looked positively beautiful.
Much love to a wonderful woman, Leslie Kaye



Leslie Kaye - November 06, 2015 at 09:34 PM

MO

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



We remember them
In the opening of buds and in the warmth of
summer,
We remember them
In the rustling of leaves and the beauty of
autumn,
We remember them
In the beginning of the year and when it ends,
We remember them
When we are weary and in need of strength,
We remember them
When we are lost and sick at heart,
We remember them
When we have joys we yearn to share,
We remember them

Michele A O'Leary - November 05, 2015 at 08:10 PM

MO

Dedicated to Pat who loved my mom so much and Pam who has been such a wonderful support to all of us.

Michele A O'Leary - November 12, 2015 at 07:55 PM

MO

“ 46 files added to the album Memories Album



Michele A O'Leary - November 04, 2015 at 11:24 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Fremont Memorial Chapel - November 04, 2015 at 10:42 AM