



## Mrs. JoAnne E. (Gentile) Colenzo

June 7, 1954 - April 7, 2023

UTICA- Mrs. JoAnne E. (Gentile) Colenzo passed away after a brief illness on Friday, April 7, 2023, at the age of 68.

JoAnne was born in Manhattan, NY, on June 7, 1954, to the late Philip Jr. and Lois D. "Pat" (Suskind) Gentile. She graduated with the Whitesboro High School Class of 1971 and went on to the Utica School of Commerce to become a Medical Assistant. She worked for doctors both in the Utica area and in Florida after her family's first relocation.

On October 25, 1981, JoAnne was married to Luke Colenzo. Everything they did, they did together, and once their boys came into their life, they all made a great team. Starting In 1987, JoAnne and Luke moved to Florida and back to New York a number of times.

While residing in Florida, JoAnne enjoyed multiple positions working for both the New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals baseball organizations during spring training.

When JoAnne was in New York, she took pride in her position as an events manager at the Munson Williams Proctors Arts Institute and eventually was promoted to Assistant Director of Performing Arts. Both of these career paths netted her many wonderful friendships.

JoAnne had a love for the arts, photography and baseball. She was fortunate enough to design a life that combined her passions and careers in every step of her life. JoAnne had many shots featured in periodicals and trade journals, including Baseball America and Sports Illustrated with a number of her photos

used for Fleer, Score, Upper Deck and Topps trading cards. She was gracious and kind, a wonderful person who gave sound advice, mixed with a great sense of humor balanced with perfect timing and the right amount of sarcasm. In addition to her many hobbies and professional skills, JoAnne was talented in the kitchen, making meatballs, lunches, Sunday dinners, and holiday treats. Above all else, JoAnne's proudest accomplishment was raising her boys to be great men. Even though her life was cut short, it was so full and filled with love.

JoAnne is survived by her husband, Luke Colenzo; and her sons, Michael (and Nicole) Colenzo, and Anthony (and Emma) Colenzo. She is additionally survived by her beloved grandchildren, Luke Colenzo, Mia Colenzo, and another on the way. Her sisters, Gail Gibson, and Victoria (and Barry) Kessler. JoAnne held close to her heart the memory of her brother, Michael Gentile, who predeceased her in August 2012. She is survived by her nephews, Scooby Royer, and Nick Messier; her niece, Rachel Gibson; and was predeceased by her nephew Philip Royer in March 2019. She also leaves behind Luke's daughters, spouses, and their children, Alicia Pfluke and Bill, Mary and John Guarascio, and Pam and Bruce Ward. JoAnne cherished countless friendships throughout the journey of life.

JoAnne's celebration of Life will be held at Handshake City Park on Sunday May 21, 2023 under the direction of "her boys" Michael and Anthony.

# Tribute Wall

AT

“ Andrew Turke and the TADA Team. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. JoAnne E. (Gentile) Colenzo.



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**Andrew Turke and the TADA Team.** - April 20, 2023 at 12:11 PM

SC

“ Luke and family  
Ron and I were so saddened to read of JoAnne's passing. She was such a lovely, talented woman who will be missed. I ran into her numerous times antiquing and we always shared news or a good laugh. Her photography was amazing but her love of family was first and foremost.  
May your many years keep her love alive in your hearts. We send you our deepest sympathy.

*Sheila and Ron Cuccaro*

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**Sheila Cuccaro** - April 17, 2023 at 11:56 AM

SG

“ Luke, so sorry for your loss, Steve Graham

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**steve graham** - April 15, 2023 at 12:08 PM

CF

“ CARMEN AND DENISE FACCIOLI purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mrs. JoAnne E. (Gentile) Colenzo.



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CARMEN AND DENISE FACCIOLI - April 14, 2023 at 01:25 PM

JL

“ My heartfelt condolences to Luke, Michael, Anthony and the entire family. I didn't know JoAnne, but from her obituary, I found her to be an amazing person. God bless.

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John LaBella - April 13, 2023 at 05:48 PM

GN

“ Luke and Family, I was extremely saddened to hear of JoAnne's passing...such a dear and lovely soul. Many years ago I introduced my Dad to JoAnne at her MWPI office and at a later class reunion, she told me how she enjoyed chatting with him as almost-neighbors here in Whitesboro!

Gary Nivaggi

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Gary Nivaggi - April 12, 2023 at 10:18 PM

JD

“ Luke, so sorry to hear about JoAnne. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family through this sorrowful and difficult time. If you need to talk, message me anytime my brother.



Jerry & Joanie Dearo

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Jerry Dearo - April 12, 2023 at 07:19 PM

JC

“ My heartfelt sympathy to Luke, Michael, Anthony and the entire family. JoAnne was a beautiful woman inside and out. She always had a perpetual smile on her face. This is such sad news. May your memories created throughout her lifetime help bring you peace.  
She will be missed by all who knew her.  
Love and Prayers,  
Jeanne Castronovo

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**Jeanne Castronovo** - April 12, 2023 at 07:01 PM

RB

“ I feel so bad that we have lost this beautiful person. I sat next to her at one of the class reunions, she was such a sweetheart. When my mother passed last yr she sent me condolences on facebook. I feel so bad for her family, may God give them the strength to carry on.

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**rose bentley** - April 12, 2023 at 04:04 PM

SK

“ I went to school with JoAnne .We were friend's on Facebook ,loved her funny sense of humor.  
I was so saddened and shocked to hear of her passing .She was a great lady with an amazing heart which she shared so freely...  
My condolences to her family. You will be so missed💔

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**susan kirsteins** - April 12, 2023 at 10:40 AM

PZ

“ I am so sorry for your loss. We went to high school together and then reconnected via Facebook. Enjoyed her posts, funny and sarcastic, always brought a smile to my face! A life taken too soon, she will be missed. May your wonderful memories help you navigate through this great loss.

*Pam Huson Zion*

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**pam zion** - April 12, 2023 at 09:37 AM

JW

“ Luke and family. So sad to hear of JoAnn's passing. I have many fond memories of our younger days. She was a beautiful girl in all ways.

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**Joanne Donaruma Wade** - April 11, 2023 at 07:10 PM

MS

“ Luke and family ,We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Sending our Deepest Sympathies. Jim & Maryrose Schiavetta

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**Maryrose Schiavetta** - April 11, 2023 at 06:42 PM

JC

“ So sorry for your loss.

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**Jean Cristoforo** - April 11, 2023 at 12:40 PM

JS

“ I am beyond sad to have heard of Joanne's passing. She was one of a kind. I was looking forward to having her back in NYS. I'm angry she did not have more time on earth and I will truly miss her. My sincere condolences to Luke, her boys and her family. Hugs to all ..Juls Stone

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**Julie Stone** - April 11, 2023 at 10:48 AM