



## Claire McCollum

November 19, 1934 - May 11, 2017

Claire McCollum, 82, of Newnan, GA passed away on May 11, 2017. She was born November 19, 1934 in Brooklyn, NY to the late Harry Hoffner and Dorothy Cohen Hoffner. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Sovjak and half-brother, Robert Simon.

She is survived by her daughter, Stephanie(Scott) Wigode Olsen; grandchildren, Mellisa, Amanda and Natalie Olsen; great-grandchildren, Carter Simmons and Amelia Zeri; brother, Edward Hoffner; half-brother, Harvey Simon.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 4, 2017 at 4:00 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home 38 Jackson St. Newnan, GA with Pastor Carl Greene and Pastor John Clark officiating.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory (770) 253-4580.

# Previous Events

## Service

JUN 4. 4:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel

38 Jackson Street

Newnan, GA 30263

(770) 253-4580

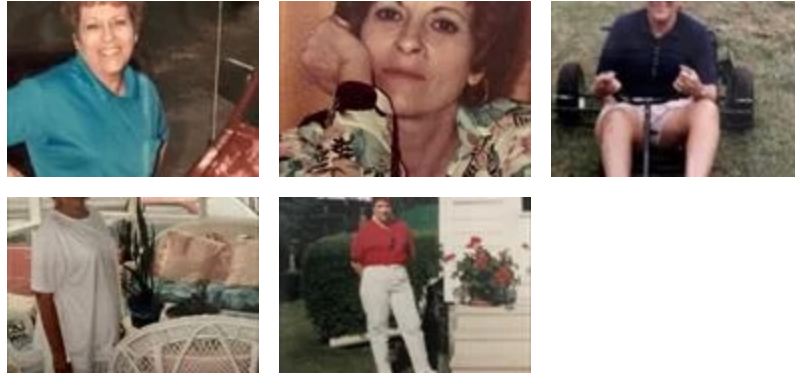
[care@mckoon.com](mailto:care@mckoon.com)

<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Tribute Wall

SW

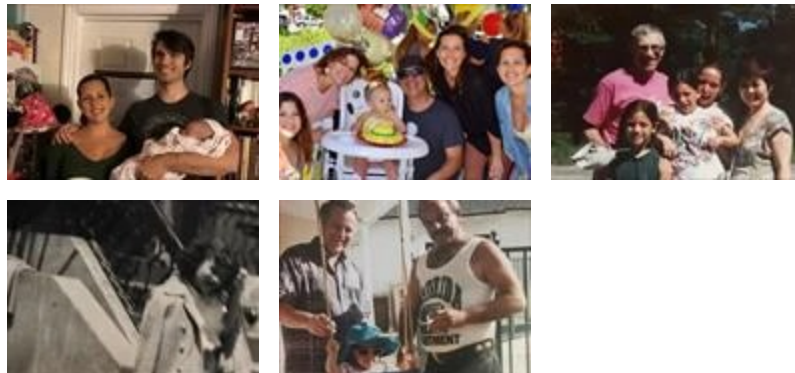
“ *These are some additional photos of Claire throughout the years. She was a beautiful lady and a very close friend.* ”



Susan Osborne Weegar - June 05, 2017 at 06:19 AM

SO

“ *You will always remain in our thoughts, and now as an angel in Heaven... May God grant you comfort and Peace Stephanie, Scott, Melissa, Amanda and Natalie Carter and Amelia* ”



stephanie olsen - June 04, 2017 at 03:46 PM

SW

“ 5 files added to the album New Album Name



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**Susan Weegar** - June 03, 2017 at 09:33 AM

SW

“ Claire had already moved into her new home on Hearthstone Dr. in Newnan back in 1985 and we bought the house across the road while under construction. We lived thirty miles north in Douglas Co so she and her sweet hubby, Mack, kept an eye on the builders for us. My son was just two and my hubby was a railroad man at the time at Pegram shop in Atlanta. That phase of Hearthstone was a very close knit section and most of us could stop in each other's kitchens for coffee and small talk without knocking. We were more like family members than just neighbors. I was pleased to help Claire type term papers and do research as she enrolled at La. Grange College majoring in art and exactly 27 years ago this week she graduated with a BA in art and a minor in music.



Later on she met Mr. John Sovjak at church and they married around 1992 and he passed away in the winter of 1998 from a type of Hodgkin's disease. He was from Michigan and a veteran, minor league baseball player and railroad man in his youth and finished his career at the Post Office. Later on he worked at a Newnan building materials store on Temple Avenue. I would go visit and enjoy his tales of minor league ball that he related to my son who was playing PONY league. Claire was an accomplished seamstress and had sewn in a hat factory in New York city and she could even upholster furniture which really impressed me. She did many paintings and one huge sculpture and learned photography in later life. Claire was an animal lover and a very spiritual lady and attended Grace Community Fellowship in Newnan.

Claire adored all animals and even a family of lizards that took residence on her porch recently and told everyone how she loved them. Most of all she loved her Cairn terrier, Benji, who died of diabetes at age 16 around the year 2000. I take solace that she has reunited with Benji on the rainbow bridge in heaven.

Fly high, Claire, and I know we have gained another guardian angel.

**Susan Weegar** - June 02, 2017 at 06:58 PM

SW

“ *Claire, Jacob and I miss you so much. I've picked up the phone several times to either call or text you. You made a difference in our lives for the past thirty-one and a half years. God bless and keep you and be our guardian angel.*  
*love, Susan and Jacob*



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**Susan Weegar** - May 26, 2017 at 06:24 PM

RO

“ *Ron lit a candle in memory of Claire McCollum*



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**Ron** - May 24, 2017 at 11:43 PM

SW

“ *Susan Weegar lit a candle in memory of Claire McCollum*



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**Susan Weegar** - May 22, 2017 at 04:48 PM

SS

“ *Met Claire years ago when her and her husband John started to Grace. Went to see her before she had her shoulder surgery and then once when she was in rehab; but my son went in the hospital, so didn't get to see her after that but was keeping up with her thru a friend. The day I visited with her at rehab, she was in good spirits. I was totally shocked when I found out about her death. I remember her always talking about her art when I first met her. I'm glad she is not suffering anymore and that she is home with the Lord. She will be missed at Grace.*

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**Syble Storey** - May 17, 2017 at 08:23 PM

SW

“ I met Claire in the fall of 1985 after we moved to Newnan. She was working full time while getting her BA degree in art and music at LaGrange College. I had never met a more talented artist or seamstress in my life and was amazed at her stamina and determination to obtain her degree. She and I remained friends after moving to different neighborhoods about twenty miles apart. Our friendship grew over the years and she and I usually talked on the phone or emailed daily.

Claire loved animals and was tender hearted to all of them such as the family of lizards that took residence on her porch. Just two weeks ago she described the lizards and refused to usher them from the porch when a friend suggested it. She adored dogs and cats and even seeing animals on tv caused her to giggle with delight.

The sudden passing of this wonderful lady has left me stunned and I reach for the phone to either call or text her daily. I'm thankful the lovely nurse at Piedmont Newnan hospital took the cordless phone and held it for Claire and I to chat and I fully expected her to recover. My son, Jacob, has loved Claire like a grandma since he met her as a baby. He and I both miss her so much and am praying for her family and friends.

Claire, fly high and watch over all of us. We will meet again one day.

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Susan Weegar - May 17, 2017 at 06:53 AM