

Deborah Sill Kliman 8/9/1941 – 1/23/2025



Deborah S. “Debbie” Kliman, 83, of Hamilton, passed away on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at Crouse Hospital, Syracuse, from complications following major abdominal surgery. She was born on August 9, 1941, in Syracuse, the only child of John Trolan and Patricia (Hawkins) Sill. She was a graduate of and Valedictorian in Hamilton Central School class of 1959. On December 17, 1966, she married Harvey L. Kliman, in Princeton, NJ.

Deborah received her Bachelor’s degree from Vassar College in 1963, and earned her Master’s degree in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College in NYC the next year. She later earned her Doctorate in Human Learning and Development from the University of Pennsylvania and did a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic 1978-79 in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in Family Therapy.

She taught at the University of Delaware, achieving tenure as an Associate Professor of Individual and Family Studies. After leaving the U of D, Debbie opened a private Child and Family Psychology practice in Chadds Ford, PA, where she worked closely with children and their families. In Delaware she advised staff at the women’s shelter, was Sr. Psychologist at Delaware Child Guidance Services for Children and Youth, and President of the Board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of DE. In 2003, Dr. Kliman was chosen by her peers as Psychologist of the Year from the Delaware Psychological Association.



In 2002, she, Harvey and three friends founded the Lyme Disease Association of SE PA, in existence today as LymeBasic.org. All five had suffered Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and were dedicated to helping others through support and education.

Following the couple’s retirement, they moved into Debbie’s childhood home in Hamilton in 2006. She was a very active and giving member of the community, she served on several local boards, was an elected



Village of Hamilton Trustee for two terms. Debbie volunteered at Worn Again Thrift Store, and was a donor to the Jewish Federation, the First Baptist Church, and Central NY Community Foundation as well as many local nonprofit organizations and charities through her and Harvey’s family foundation. She was always willing to lend her time or resources to help better her community, lending her bright outlook.

Debbie exuded strength and confidence in all her endeavors. Never a harsh word in her work on various boards and committees, she was always quietly leading the groups forward. She almost never passed up an opportunity to serve her community, cheerfully and effectively.

Forever wearing a smile, she walked the Village almost every day with her husband, despite physical impairments in her later years.

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Contributions in her name may be sent to the Hamilton Food Cupboard, Southern Maddison Heritage Trust, and Chenango SPCA, representing community, conservation and her love of cats.

Interment was held in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Hamilton, Section 14, Lot 29, on October 6, 2025.

To send a condolence online, please visit www.burgessandtedescofuneralhomes.com