



## Joseph N. Gittelman

April 23, 1937 - July 25, 2024

Joe Gittelman, born on April 23, 1937, to Arthur J. Gittelman and Anna Zion Gittelman, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, July 25, 2024, surrounded by family and caregiving angels.

A very special thank you to Dr. Shannon Schrader and his amazing staff. For 20 years, he has been an angel to Joe. In the last five years, Dr. Schrader was available 24 hours a day, whenever we needed help and advice. In Joe's final hours, Dr. Schrader's unwavering support and care were invaluable, as he practically carried Joe across the heavenly bridge.

Joe leaves behind a legacy of remarkable achievements and cherished memories.

Joe's educational journey began at Central High School in Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1954. He then earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1957. His thirst for knowledge led him to New York University, where he obtained his master's degree in 1960. Joe was headed to UC Berkeley for a position, he stopped in Ann Arbor and was invited to stay at the University of Michigan for work and school, which he accepted. Six years later, Joe had earned his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan.

His professional career took off when he caught the attention of a man at Shell Oil during a presentation at an Acoustical Conference while in Michigan. Joe's 27-year journey with Shell began starting in the Shell Lab and eventually moving to Offshore and Onshore Divisions in New Orleans. He served as an exploration manager until 1982, after which he transferred to Houston to become the General Manager for the Alaskan region. In 1984, Joe assumed the role of GM for E&P Research, and in 1987, he became GM of Exploration for onshore US operations, including Alaska. His final position was as GM of Geophysics at Shell Oil Exploration's head office in downtown Houston, where he worked until his retirement in 1994.

Not one to rest, Joe founded Danlier, an oil and gas consulting business, which thrived until early 2024. Beyond work, Joe found joy in family, lake house projects, and fishing—often catching more fish than he could eat.

A skilled bridge player, Joe competed both for fun and money. However, his true relaxation came from playing cribbage with his buddies. Known as "Gittelgoose," he proudly defended his title week after week for an impressive 50 years. His last game was on July 17, 2024, with his lifetime cribbage partners.

Joe is survived by his loving wife, Dianna, his sons Eric and Dan (along with their wives, Linda and Catherine), his daughter Lisa (and her husband, Jason), and his five grandchildren: Logan, Lindsey, Drake, Savannah, and Addison. He is preceded in death by his father, Arthur, his mother, Anna, and his brother, Bernie.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, August 11, 2024, at Congregation Emanu El in the Proler Chapel, 1500 Sunset Blvd., Houston, TX 77005. Following the service, a reception will take place at 2027 Drexel Dr., Houston, TX 77027.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making donations to St. Jude's Hospital or T2T.org at the following links.

<http://fundraising.stjude.org/goto/Josephgittelman>

<https://dogood.t2t.org/campaign/in-memory-of-joseph-gittelman/c606147>

May Joe's memory continue to bring comfort and inspiration to all who knew him.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG 11. 2:00 PM (CT)

Congregation Emanu El  
1500 Sunset Blvd  
Houston, TX 77005

*The Proler Chapel.*

# Tribute Wall

ML

“ We remember Joe and Dianna being very hands-on in caring for friends who were in dire need during times of health crises. Byron Greenberg is the one that stands out prominently in Mark’s memory. One other time that was monumental to us is when our son Matt was very ill and living in Houston. They came to his aid as if they were family when we could not get to Houston quickly enough. We always think of Joe as having a very charismatic and welcoming personality. He was surely sweet and handsome as well. We are very saddened by the great suffering Joe endured as he fought valiantly to get well. He was a rolemodel in appreciating the great gift of life. May God bring comfort and peace to Dianna and their beautiful family.

*With love, Mark and Sally Lair*

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**Mark and Sally Lair** - August 13, 2024 at 03:09 PM

LG

“ I have many fond memories of Joe. Just a few weeks ago, before I heard of Joe's passing I told my kids about the day Joe, in a meeting, decided to retire, and gave notice. I ran into him crossing the bridge between buildings 1 and 5 in Woodcreek. I was still a pretty young Shell geologist and I noticed that Joe had a very unusual expression on his face...I asked him if everything was OK, and he said, "Larry, I was in a meeting, getting a lot of grief (not the exact word), and I realized I'm rich and I don't have to take this anymore." I always trusted Joe's advice, and it took around another 20 years, before I realized the wisdom of that day on the bridge. I always get a smile when I think of Joe Gittelman.

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**Larry Garmezy** - August 10, 2024 at 10:49 PM



“ *Cheeseboard Gourmet Gift was purchased for the family of Joseph N. Gittelman.*



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August 05, 2024 at 04:22 PM



“ *Sarah and I loved to spend time with Dianna and Joe and we shared wonderful dinners together. Joe's resume is remarkably impressive and I had no idea about all of the accomplishment he achieved in his education and his career. Joe and I would play bridge online on Sundays and after every game, Joe would call me and go through the boards giving me pointers on bidding or declarer play. Joe had a talent of manufacturing tricks just like pulling a rabbit out of a hat. Needless to say, Sarah and I will miss Joe very much. May his memory be a blessing and may Joe rest in peace forever. Saran and Chuck Gillis .*

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**Chuck Gillis** - August 05, 2024 at 01:37 PM



*Chuck, He loved your bridge games every week, and ALL our dinners..if only we could have had a few more !!*

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**Dianna Gittelman** - August 07, 2024 at 01:59 PM



“ *Joe and I had a lot in common: same age, both attended U. of Michigan, worked in New Orleans for Shell Exploration Offshore, retired same time. I appreciated his involvement in Shell Offshore Pioneers. His efforts will be missed.*

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**Douglas Holmes** - August 02, 2024 at 07:47 PM

CL

“ *Dianna, you and Joe faced the world back to back as one unit while the rest of us watched in amazement! I am so happy to have known your Joe and to spend good times at bridge and social events with you! With much love, Carolyn Lanier*

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**Carolyn Lanier** - August 02, 2024 at 07:45 PM

DI

*Carolyn, he loved our times together. We have missed seeing you!*

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**Dianna** - August 03, 2024 at 03:24 PM

DN

“ *I worked with Joe as a geologist in several capacities and locations over the years, the last being in 1990-1991 at Woodcreek when he was General Manager of SWEPI. He was a fine person and a real gentleman and I enjoyed our times together.*  
*Dick Nicholas*

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**Dick Nicholas** - August 02, 2024 at 05:08 PM

DI

*Dick, in our safe was a letter from you from sent in 1994' when Joe retired. He this kept this letter and spoke of you often with fondness in his shell memories.*

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**Dianna** - August 03, 2024 at 03:35 PM

JA

“ *Dianna, I remember our marvelous trip to Australia and New Zealand. Your Joe and my Bob looked dashing in their rubber suits at the Barrier Reef. We had many treasured trips with you and Joe. Joe will be missed by so many.*

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**Jane Armstrong** - August 02, 2024 at 12:15 PM

DI

*They were so adorable in their rubber suits!*

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**Dianna** - August 03, 2024 at 03:38 PM

TP

“ *Love you Joe. We will miss all the years we spent together socially and bridge making memories. Especially the time at Honeymoon Lake so long ago.*

*Tom and Judy*

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**Tom and Judy Peters** - August 01, 2024 at 06:25 PM