

## *Expression of Condolence for Katalin Klein by Toronto City Council*

**Moved by: Councillor Mike Colle**

**Seconded by: Councillor James Pasternak**

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Katalin Klein at the age of 95.

Katalin, fondly referred to as Anu, was born in the small village of Omany, Hungary in 1926, to her parents, Gisella Markovits and Jozsef Schlesinger. Katalin had a happy childhood in Szendro, singing and dancing with her two brothers, Sandor and Zoltan, and baby sister, Magda. Her simple orthodox Jewish life was shattered in 1939 at the age of 13 when the Holocaust gripped Europe. In 1944, Katalin's family was taken to the first of eight interments including Hungarian ghettos and increasingly horrific concentration camps including Auschwitz.

On May 8, 1945, after being liberated by the Russian Army, Kataline and Magda who survived these horrors together, made their way by train and foot to their family home in Szendro, Hungary. Her parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, and one of her brothers had all perished.

Anu had met a "handsome boy", Eugene Jenö Klein, in the Szendro Ghetto before being taken to Auschwitz. Shortly after their liberation they declared their love for one another and married. With nothing left of their previous lives, they immigrated to Sweden and then in 1951, answering an ad welcoming immigrants to Canada, they took a ship, the SS Stavangerfjord to Pier 21 in Halifax, and an onward train to Toronto.

Jenö, the love of her life, passed away in 1986 leaving her a young widow. She dedicated her life after that to her four grandchildren, Jaime, Dustin, Daniella, and Alison. She was so proud of her ability to cope with what life had dealt her and was determined to remain independent. She welcomed Dustin's wife Emily and Jaime's wife Jack into her life and was looking forward to becoming a Great Grandmother to Dustin and Emily's child.

Anu's unconditional love and caring will be missed every day by her children, Alex and Francine, Judi and Lawrence, and her grandchildren. Anu will be forever remembered by all of her family and friends, and all whose lives she touched throughout her journey.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to Katalin Klein's family.

February 2, 2022