



Joseph Gannon

NOV 25, 1930 - JAN 9, 2024



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MAUI MEMORIAL PARK
NAKAMURA MORTUARY
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You can't talk about Joe Gannon without talking about how big he was. He's inseparable from his big laugh, big stories, bright clothes & eyewear, wet kisses, and his deep love for friends, kids, and the biggest love of all, his partner in everything, his wife Beverly.

Joe liked to tell his kids, "If you are going to be a plumber, be the best f-ing plumber you can be." They were 8, 10, 13, & 15 years old respectively. While none of them were considering potential career paths at the time, the message was clear; it doesn't matter what you do, as long as you do it with passion.

So it should surprise no one that a scrappy South Philly kid talked his way onto a stage to perform with The Kingston Quartet despite not really being able to play the stand-up bass. His days as a musician were short, but that started a long career in the music business—Band Manager, Stage Manager, Road Manager, and Lighting Designer where he shined. It is hard to imagine a time when Rock and Roll Concerts were not spectacles with outrageous lights and stage pieces, pyrotechnics and theatrics. But it was the creatives in the 70's, like Joe Gannon, who were the cutting-edge innovators. The entire list of artists he worked with is too long so here are the highlights:

Kingston Trio—Herb Albert and the Tijuana Brass—Jack Benny—Smothers Brothers—Neil Diamond—Alice Cooper—Kiss—Liza Minelli—Kansas—Linda Rondstat—Earth, Wind & Fire—Teddy Pendergrass—Blondie—Luther Vandross—Barry Manilow—Julio Iglesias, to name a few.

Joe met his future wife Bev in 1973, 7 years before they started dating, when Bev was Liza Minnelli's Road Manager, and Joe was Liza's Production Manager on her "Liza With a Z" Tour. After meeting Joe, Bev remembers saying, "that guy is crazy !" When they ran into each other 7 years later, Joe was crazy as ever, but the attraction was overwhelming and Joe and Bev fell in love and left Hollywood for the quiet life on Maui. But where Joe and Bev go, big



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things happen. So when they decided to open a gourmet take-out food shop in an old pineapple company store, Haliimaile General Store was born and it quickly became a full service restaurant with the best food on Maui. A James Beard nomination later they opened Joe's Bar & Grill, and Gannon's. Joe would tell you his greatest attribute was his ability to spotlight talent, and in this case the talent was Bev, who helped pioneer a new culinary category Hawai'i Regional Cuisine (HRC Chefs). Joe, a dedicated gourmand and everyone's favorite front-of-house man, made you feel at home. It was the combination of his unique aloha spirit and her delicious food that made visiting their restaurants the homecoming you didn't even know you needed.

Joe has either literally traveled the world with many of you, or figuratively taken you on a trip with him through his stories. Just know this; if he ever told you, "I never liked you anyway," or, "you are the worst personal person," then Joe has told you I love you, and he did, he truly loved you.

*Joe Gannon is survived by his wife Beverly, his children Cathy, Cheech, and Jana, grandsons Tyler, Will, and Joe, Sons-in-law Chris, Jeff, and Brandt. Patrick, son, (deceased Oct. 22).

Joe's last hurrah will be held in the fall 2024. In lieu of flowers please donate to Hospice Maui, or Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui.

The check is in the mail..



Tribute Wall

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CB

Craig Bogue posted:

Joe was my uncle. Just found out. Sorry for your loss aunt Beverly. All my family has passed away. Please reach out pass on to Cheche,Cathy and Jana my condolences.My number is 910 340-1210

January 21 at 10:21 PM

BF

Br. Christopher P. Fishkin posted:

I am just learning of his transition almost a year in. Joe was always, and I mean always a blessing to me. In 1999 I was working with local Hawaiian youth and he supported our outreach into the community. When I later in 2010 assisted Bev and Joe's sister restaurant on Lanai during Thanksgiving and Christmas, Joe would drive me to the Ferry. I brought Joe one night down to Rivermouth to listen to Hawaiian brothers who were musicians and lived houseless with their families down there. He was amazed and loved it! Joe, our Franciscan family will keep loving you from here and spreading your love and good will. And of course we will always remember, "It's better to be kind, than right." Br. Christopher Fishkin, O.S.F.

October 31 at 6:38 PM

CA

Carol posted:

So many fun memories of almost 30 years in the HGS family...Joe "Show time ladies, lipstick on!" & of course a chorus of "Thanks for the memories" at the end of the night.Most memorable character 💙Joe has left the building❤️👤 vT O'hana

January 27 at 7:50 AM

BS

Bobbie Simko posted:

Bill and I saw Joe and our dear friend Lovena Love in the Costco parking lot just last week. He had on a fabulously colorful shirt and laughed heartily as we waved on our way into the store. We both kept a distance because we were just getting over the beastly virus going around, but I can still see that wide smile and hear Joe's hearty laugh. R.I.P. Mr. Gannon. I'm guessing you're already thru those pearly gates and bending St. Peter's ear.😁👤

January 18 at 9:24 AM



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Willow O'Neill posted:

Joe was a class act. It was great going to one of Bev and Joes restaurants , and seeing his smiling face. I think the man got better with age. His personality made you think he would always be around. He will be deeply missed on the island. My prayers go out to Bev, and his family.
Willow O 'Neill

January 17 at 6:50 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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