

STAN KLEES ON MEETING JOAN RIVERS

Walt Grealis and I were dining at Toronto's Centro Grill and Wine Bar. We were waiting for Lori Bruner, who was running late. The manager, Tony Longo, came over to the table to tell us Joan Rivers was in the restaurant.

Minutes later Tony came over to tell me that Lori was on the phone. I took the call and she explained she was running late. I told her to wear her Joan River's QVC topaz broach.

Later in the evening, Joan was leaving and would be passing our table. I stood up and said "Miss Rivers." She stopped and came over. I said "Look at the lady's jewellery" and pointed to Lori.

Rivers screamed with excitement. "That's one of my pieces." She was very gracious and thanked me a number of times. She gave everybody at the table a hug and headed for the door.

As she reached the door, she turned to the young gentleman with her. She looked in the small black shiny shopping bag that he was carrying and she came all the way back to the table and gave Lori a small box .

"This is new," said Rivers. "We're not even selling it yet. I want you to have it." In the box was a topaz broach that became one of Lori's favourite pieces. Lori passed away in 2009 of a brain tumor.