



# Jan Carol Schoemaker

DEC 24, 1950 - JUL 1, 2024



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Jan Carol Schoemaker

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**J**an Carol Schoemaker, or Mimi as her grandchildren affectionately called her, passed away on July 1, 2024 at the age of 73. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend.

Born on December 24, 1950 in Jackson, Tennessee, Jan had a lifelong love of the arts, which started at an early age. At Jackson High School she was the youngest student ever to win best actress of the year. She spent a year at The Washington School of Ballet in Washington, D.C. and performed in *The Nutcracker* with The Washington Ballet. She went on to graduate from National Cathedral School, also in Washington. She later earned her undergraduate degree from University of Oregon and her Master of Science in Counseling from Memphis State University. Jan worked as a therapist, providing support and guidance to those in their most vulnerable moments. This experience, along with her intuitive nature and keen observations, made her a supportive friend and a lifeline for many.

Later in life, she found her true passion painting landscapes. This allowed her to combine her love of the arts with her deep appreciation of the beauty of nature. Her love of different perspectives and culture was evidenced in her travels. In addition to significant travel abroad, she lived in Nigeria and Canada, as well as several states in the U.S. Jan was an experiential learner through her own journeys, as well as those of others. She was an avid reader and loved to watch documentaries, especially moved by stories about creative souls who lived life on their own terms. Jan was also very generous, improving the lives of those less fortunate in any way she could. She did this humbly and anonymously, never seeking credit or accolades.

Jan's generosity, her sharp wit and humor, insatiable curiosity, and passion will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. She was full of warmth, laughter, life, and moxie. Jan said what she thought and stood for what she believed in. Her friends, who were like extended family, included childhood friends and new friends alike, from all different backgrounds. She was one of a kind whose joyous spirit and memory will live on in the hearts of many.



## Obituary

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Jan is preceded in death by her mother, Marjorie Blake Miller and her father, William Harley Miller. She is survived by her daughter Kindra Faye Long, son-in-law Jesse Gordon Long, and her grandchildren Sophia Blake Long and Theodorus James Long, all of Portland, Oregon; her sisters Darrelle Blake Miller and Patricia Miller Anderson (Newton) of Memphis, TN; nephew Newton Blake Anderson of New York, NY, and niece Alicia Anderson Gomes (Charles) of Tampa, FL, as well as close cousins, including Debra Blake Voss of Germantown, TN and other extended family.

Despite all of her many adventures, Jan was Southern at heart, always returning home to Memphis, her final resting place. A memorial service will be held to celebrate Jan's life and honor her memory, at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery (5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN 38119) on Saturday August 24th, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel. A reception will immediately follow the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to charities that were close to Jan's heart such as Planned Parenthood, Collage Dance Collective, and Dorothy Day House.



# Events


**Jan Carol Schoemaker**

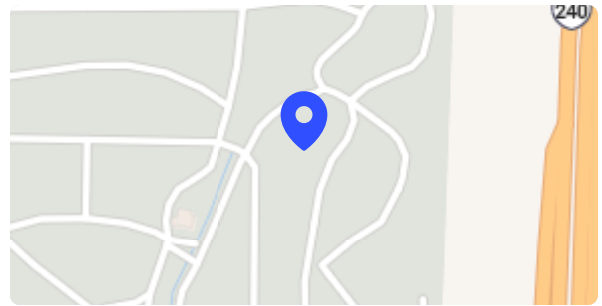
DEC 24, 1950 - JUL 1, 2024

## Celebration of Life


 **Saturday**, August 24, 2024

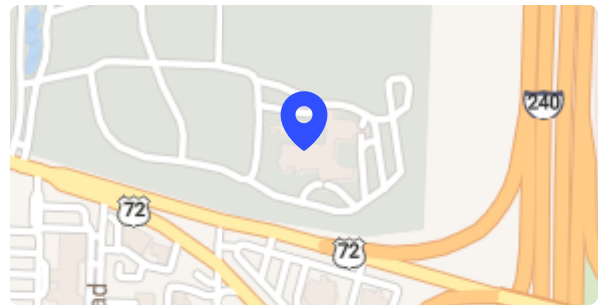
 11:00 AM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



## Cemetery Details

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





## Tribute Wall

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**Gerrude Sherman** posted:

Jan and I met when she came to National Cathedral School. We were friends, along with another couple of young women, Jane and Alex. I was sorry that she did not come to NCS Reunions, yet pleased that someone in her circle notified the school for this year's All Souls Service at NCS. I was so happy to learn that she went on to have a full family life, a life of service to others, and an artistic life. I am just now exploring landscape painting in watercolor, so I will think of her as my angel watching my strokes as I dabble along. Gertrude Sherman, NCS 1969

October 30 at 11:27 AM



TE

**Topley Edenton** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Jan and I were friends at a very young age, around 5 or possibly younger. Jan had the most fun doll house in her front yard and it was our play house. We had a blast as we both were quite mischievous! We would crack and break sticks and imagine we were doctors! This was fun for us as little children but as some of you may have noticed we never made it into medical school!! I am sharing a fun pic of the two of us in the first grade with Cousin Tuney and our friends. Cousin Tuney was the local TV Star who hosted TV birthday parties for all of the lucky kids growing up in Jackson, Tennessee. As you see Jan is full of personality in this picture and I was told this picture even made it to New York to a network there. There was a period when I moved back to our hometown and I believe Jan was living on the west coast. So the next period in our lives together that I remember the most was in the 80's when Jan, her daughter, Kindra and I rode around Memphis in Jan's Volvo. Mostly Jan was running errands and Kindra and I were the passengers. The dialogue was always entertaining and exhilarating. In fact, there was almost no topic that the 3 of us couldn't discuss. The openness that Jan had with Kindra and me was the most substantive, and healthiest I've had with anyone. The next fun period together was after I moved to Miami Beach, Florida in 1996. Jan visited me several times around the year 2000 and later. In fact, Jan and I celebrated the turn of the century together on Ocean Drive in South Beach amongst thousands of the night time party crowds, fireworks, screaming, yelling and excitement. Her interests were always shopping at the Bal Harbor shops and in particular the fabulous bookstore there. She would buy dozens of books and have them shipped to her home in Memphis. I remember also her joy in purchasing beautiful towel sets from Bloomingdales at the Aventura Mall for Kindra that were shipped directly to Kindra on the west coast. In addition to shopping, Jan loved the great restaurants in the Miami area and we tried so many together. In fact, there are 2 pics that I had a waiter take with her and our friend, Topley Edenton at Michael's in the Miami Design District. As I write this I'm hoping the pics make it on Jan's legacy website. But there were more visits when just Jan and I were together. What I remember the most was that Jan emptied her luggage onto my dining room table. She really had no choice as the guest bed was located in a little cubicle connected to the dining room. We were so happy to see each other that the location of the bed and the dining table covered with her belongings never seemed to phase us. This added a casualness to the room as was Jan's surroundings in her home. I loved her demeanor of never caring to impress others. She knew herself and was not about to put on airs in the presence of others. So finally Jan, my beloved and loyal friend, I love you and RIP until we meet again. Sissy

August 14 at 12:38 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Jan Carol Schoemaker**

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**Topley Edenton** shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Adventures... Visits to South Florida,Naples,North Bay Village to visit Sissy and Doug,South Beach and Del Ray. New York during fashion week. Searching for best pizza in Manhattan.Looking for the best paint in Miami Art Stores. And then there was the ice storm which we hunkered down together for a few wks! And it was just us and we were having fun,telling stories and cooking way too much!Always trying to discover new art and creating it. Books galore. Newspapers and politics. We were on the same page a lot of timeand certainly not satisfied with the status quo most of the time. Searching for healthy, fresh, delicious food and low FODMAP, low salt, orwhatever research we we into at the time.I will miss Jan terribly and will be seeking out rainbows, butterflies, and fawns dashing in the road to reconnect as we promised each other we would! And of course in dreams. She was my sister in adventures! And fun and creative! She lives on and will continue so without an expiration date.Condolences to all of her family and surely she will live on in your lives as well.Kindra, just want you to know how proud Jan was of you and your family. Her girlfriends saw every picture taken of you and your family multiple times! You were her delight! And we girlfriend's were thrilled because that's what made her the happiest.



August 14 at 12:38 PM



Topley Edenton shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 14 at 12:50 PM



Topley Edenton shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 14 at 12:38 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

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



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