



Mrs. Norma Jean Geesey

January 7, 1941 - April 2, 2020

Norma Jean Geesey (née Barley), age 79, passed away peacefully at home in Baltimore, MD, on April 2, 2020. She was born January 7, 1941 to Donald L. Barley and Elsie Barley in York, PA, where she grew up. She graduated from William Penn High School in 1958. Jean later earned a BA in European Studies from Goucher College in 1985 as a returning student. She was married to Ronald Geesey for 37 years, 1961-1998. She raised two daughters while living in Fayetteville, NC; Ardsley, NY; Dublin, Ireland; London, England; Brussels, Belgium; Baltimore, MD; and Duesseldorf, Germany, before finally settling again in Baltimore.

Jean was an active volunteer in the community everywhere she lived. She was a Girl Scout leader in Belgium, and chairperson of Girl Scout cookie sales for the entire Baltimore region. She joined the American Women's Club (a chapter of the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO)) in Belgium, and became a devoted member. She continued her work with the American Women's Club chapter in Duesseldorf, and was two-time president of the group. She remained active in this group's U.S. chapter while living in Baltimore, continuing to volunteer and attending regional as well as international meetings.

In Baltimore, Jean was a dedicated member of the Walter's Art Museum Women's Committee, organizing and volunteering at events such as Art

Blooms. She was a member of the Church of the Redeemer, serving on the Memorials Committee. In addition to these activities, Jean enjoyed her book group at Goucher College, watching British television, doing crossword puzzles, visiting with her family, and spending summers at her home at the Jersey Shore in Stone Harbor, NJ.

Jean is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Elizabeth and James Holmes and Katherine and Ronald Blazek. In addition, she had three grandchildren, Emma, Amelia, and Nikolas, and a sister-in-law, Sylvia Barley. Her brother, Donald Barley, predeceased her.

A celebration of her life will take place at a later date, details and location to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please make any donations to the Walters Art Museum, the Church of the Redeemer, or the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.

Walter's Art Museum: <https://thewalters.org/support/join/patron/ways/>

Church of the Redeemer: <http://www.redeemberbaltimore.org/>

FAWCO: <https://www.fawco.org/about/how-we-work/support-fawco>

Tribute Wall

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donny Barley - April 28, 2020 at 11:19 PM

NH

“ Jean was one of the early members of our Literature Study Group in the AWC in Duesseldorf, German. She was well-read, and generous in sharing her gifts. I remember her meatloaf meals for us, too.

Once both of us were back in the states, Jean generously offered to let us use her home in Stone Harbor after the family had left. We enjoyed this restful place several times.

Our sympathy to her daughters. You have lost a kind strong mother.

Nancy and Dieter Huth - April 08, 2020 at 07:24 PM

DB

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Donny Barley - April 06, 2020 at 10:44 AM



These are terrific Donny!

Beth Holmes - April 08, 2020 at 04:45 PM

AP

“ 1 file added to the album Remembering Mom



Alma Patist - April 05, 2020 at 01:51 PM

AP

The photo above was taken in Zurich when we attended the FAWCO Conference. Jean was President of the AWC in Dusseldorf and I was the editor of the newsletter. I was in such of awe of Jean and the other women in that photograph - Mary, Millie, Ingeborg. Many years later, Jean came to visit and stay with me in Holland. We had a wonderful time revisiting our days in Germany and going around Amsterdam to see the various sights. We talked, laughed, shared. She even taught me the names of the different plants in our garden. I was so sorry she could only stay a couple of days. I was hoping she could come again. I guess, we will be meeting somewhere else. From Holland, I send you my sincere sympathies and prayers for your mom and your family. Alma (I'm the the short one on the left of the photo)

Alma Patist - April 05, 2020 at 03:17 PM



Hi Alma, Thank you for sharing this photo and memory.

Beth Holmes - April 08, 2020 at 04:46 PM

DB

“ *I miss you Aunt Jean . I will always remember how you were always teaching us “proper speaking” . I also always remember having all your wonderful dogs around . I'm grateful for you and your family being a part of ours . You are with your brother (my dad) and your parents now . Until we meet again , Rest In Peace, Donny*

Donny Barley - April 05, 2020 at 12:13 PM

VB

“ Sorry to hear of Jean's passing. She was a wonderful President of the American Women's Club of Duesseldorf twice.

Eternal Memory - Ewiges Gedenken!

Vera Busch

Longstanding Member of the American International Women's Club of Duesseldorf

Vera Busch - April 05, 2020 at 10:07 AM

CH

“ We do remember Jean from Brussels,Baltimore,London. Will miss her and want to offer our condolences to the family.

We pray with you.

Holsters Family Belgium

Carl Holsters - April 05, 2020 at 02:47 AM

EH

“ Jean was so very proud of her family, sharing so many stories. She loved her Goucher family and her trips to London each year to the theatre. She was such fun, roomie, at the FAUSA get-a-ways, I miss you dear friend.

Liz Hemminger

Elizabeth Hemminger - April 04, 2020 at 03:27 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Donny Barley - April 04, 2020 at 10:02 AM



Thanks for the photos. Everyone is so young!

Beth Holmes - April 08, 2020 at 04:47 PM

SB

“ The 1st time I met Jean I was dating her brother Don and he brought me home for a snack, which I thought would be chips and cokes. She made grilled open faced cheese, bacon and tomato sandwiches ...we became girlfriends! We shared hairdos, charm bracelets, Oldies music and penny loafers. She married 1st, had 2 daughters and moved to many countries. I had 2 sons, between the girls and moved to many states. We became sisters...and mailed a family baptism dress back and forth, shared baby scares, and recipes, family trips, Holiday visits, weddings and funerals. She was a classy generous lady, a great hostess and cook. I loved her and will miss her.

Sibbi Barley

Sib Barley - April 04, 2020 at 09:14 AM



What a wonderful tribute and memories Aunt Sibby!

Beth Holmes - April 08, 2020 at 04:48 PM

PZ

“ Beth and Kate , i'm sorry for your loss. I only have fond memories of our family reunions.. please know we are thinking of you all.. Prayers and hugs



pattie zerbe - April 03, 2020 at 09:56 PM

LG

“ Jean was a lovely lady. I had the privilege of meeting Jean through FAUSA and FAWCO events. She was witty and sharp. I am so sad to hear of Jean's passing.

Louise Greeley-Copley - April 03, 2020 at 07:45 PM

CW

“ Beth and Geesey extended family, so sorry to hear this news. Praying for you and your family. Chris and Rodger Williams

Christine Williams - April 03, 2020 at 07:04 PM

JF

“ So, so sorry for your loss Beth. May your mother's memory be a blessing forever.

Julie Feldman - April 03, 2020 at 06:45 PM

AC

“ Jean has a rich sense of humor. A dry humor with observations which I found to be insightful and hilarious. I knew Jean through FAWCO and enjoyed many laughs with her at FAWCO Conferences. Rest in Peace Beautiful Person.

Arline Burns Coward - April 03, 2020 at 06:40 PM

WM

“ Thinking of you both, Beth and Kate. Knowing that the day would come doesn't make the magnitude of the loss any easier. My sympathies and wish for strength and peace. Thinking of your families at this sad time.

Wendy Moore - April 03, 2020 at 06:24 PM

 Pam Horvath

“ Beth & Kate - Please know you and your families are in my thoughts and prayers at this difficult time. Your mother was always kind to me, so I only have good memories of her.

Love - Pam Yingling Horvath (your mother's cousin)

Pam Horvath - April 03, 2020 at 05:41 PM

SH

“ The Nicest Lady I Ever Met. Deepest Condolences.



Steve Holmes - April 03, 2020 at 05:02 PM

SW

“ Beth - I am so sorry about your mom's passing. I just read her obituary- what a wonderful and rich life! I wonder if our moms ever met? My mom was a member of the American Women's Club in Brussels too. I will always remember your mom's hospitality to me when I visited with you and your family in Germany - And that she took us for a spin in her VW convertible!

Sending prayers and hugs to you in this sad time 🙏🙏🙏

Susan Wright - April 03, 2020 at 04:23 PM



It's really a small world isn't it. I still remember how amazed we were when we found out that you and I had been in the same musical production. I'll bet our Moms were in the AWC together in Brussels!

Beth Holmes - April 08, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Photos of Jean Geesey*



Beth Holmes - April 03, 2020 at 03:51 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Photos of Jean Geesey*



Beth Holmes - April 03, 2020 at 03:50 PM



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Beth Holmes - April 03, 2020 at 03:49 PM



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Beth Holmes - April 03, 2020 at 03:39 PM



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Beth Holmes - April 03, 2020 at 03:39 PM