



## Jean Louise Schemel

May 3, 1927 - January 8, 2021

Jean Louise Schemel, Racine, age 93, passed away at The Pillars Assisted Living at Crystal Bay (formerly Bay Pointe) on Friday, January 8, 2021. She was the daughter of Louis J. Schemel and Dorothy C. (nee:Niesen) Schemel. Jean was born on May 3, 1927 and had been a Racine area resident all of her life. She was an active member of St. Lucy's Catholic Church. Jean worked in banking all of her life. She first worked at Northside Bank where she became a vice-president. She later worked at M&I Bank (now BMO Harris). Jean served on many boards, including the board of directors for the Racine Mental Health Association, and was a board member and past president of St. Monica's Senior Citizen Home. She delivered Meals on Wheels for many years and volunteered at Becker Shoop.

Jean's surviving relatives are Marlene Freudenwald, Gayle Freudenwald, Mark Freudenwald, Karen (Edward) Dyke, Kathryn Freudenwald, Thomas Freudenwald, Timothy Freudenwald, David (Jill) Freudenwald, William Freudenwald, and many dear friends.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents, her aunts and uncles: Hazel and Nels Halberg, Ruth and Reuben Freudenwald, William and Marge Niesen, and her cousins: Robert Freudenwald and Roger Freudenwald.

Due to Covid-19 a private family burial service for Jean was held at West Lawn Memorial Park. The family would like to thank the staff at Crystal Bay and Ascension Hospice for their loving care of Jean these last years.

Memorials to St. Lucy's Catholic Church have been suggested.



# Cemetery Details

## West Lawn Memorial Park

9000 Washington Ave  
Racine, WI 53406

# Tribute Wall

KV

“ Jean was one of my mother's (Marjorie Galbraith) best friends. I had the pleasure of working with her at North Side Bank. She was a joy to be around. My mother and I would go feed my father his lunch and dinner while he was in a nursing home. Jean happened to be there as well visiting her dear friend Sister Eleanor. It was fun listening to Jean and my mother reminisce. God's peace to the family.



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**Kathy Vachalik** - January 19, 2021 at 01:40 PM

VK

“ Vanessa Kimbrough lit a candle in memory of Jean Louise Schemel



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**Vanessa kimbrough** - January 18, 2021 at 07:28 PM

RD

“ I was very sorry to hear of Jean's passing. I knew her from St. Lucy's and I counted money with her on Monday mornings. She was always a delight to be around. She had a great sense of humor and made me laugh. She will be missed. My prayers go out to her family and friends.

*Roberta D.*

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**ROBERTA Davidson** - January 18, 2021 at 12:31 PM

RP

“ So sorry to hear of Jeanie passing. i met her when I was 5 years old. She was a good friend of my parents Peter and Helen Matranga. Not sure if they met through North Side Bank or through a friend called Brownie. Many years later I had the privilege of working with her at M&I bank. After that I would run into her now and than at The Racine Theater Guild. Jeanie was a very sweet woman and will be missed. May she rest in peace.  
Joe and Rosemary Povkovich

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**Rosemary Povkovich** - January 18, 2021 at 11:53 AM

BF

“ My name is Barbara Barry Fries. My grandfather was Otto Cheska, and was on the Board of Directors of North Side Bank when Jean was an officer there. When I was a senior in high school he asked her if there was a job for me. She was so nice and hired me to work after school. I walked there and worked from 3 to 5:30 and Fridays til closing and Saturdays till noon in bookkeeping to earn money for college. I worked Summers and Holidays while going to UW Milwaukee and upon graduation, I went to work there full time. Who would have thought I would have stayed there even after Jean retired for a total of 20 years! Jean was always an inspiration to me because she was the first woman to sit on the Board of Directors of a bank in Racine and to hold the title of Senior Vice President. Jean and I, along with several others, had lunch every day across the street at the Paragon Restaurant. I remember coffee was all of 10 cents a cup then. One of my funniest memories was when we were crossing Douglas Avenue to go back to the bank from lunch and the wind blew her wig off. It was like a tumble weed rolling down Douglas Avenue with Jean in her heels running after it. It was amazing she did not get hit by a car! I remember Jean got her real estate license after she retired and i was always intrigued by that..... so much so that I too now am a realtor and have been one for 28 years. One of our bank customers, Chuck Vargo who owned Coldwell Banker hired me. Jean always liked Chuck and was happy that i was working for him. Again, Jean was my role model. I sent Christmas cards to Jean every year but several years ago they started coming back to me. They were not forwarded to her. Someone told me she was at St Monicas and I sent them there, but they also were returned. Nobody told me where she was or I would have visited her.

I am glad Jean is in heaven with her beloved parents! She was a good daughter and took such good care of them both. I am glad she is not living alone anymore. I always enjoyed seeing her at Wells Brothers on Friday nights. When i saw her and her friends, the Fumo girls, she always asked me about my children and my family. When they reopen, I will think of her whenever I am there and i will miss seeing her. Jean..... God Bless You! You were a pioneer for

*many of us to know that women could be an equal professionally with men in the business world. You will be missed!!!!*

*Love,  
Barbara Barry Fries*

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**Barbara Barry Fries** - January 17, 2021 at 09:40 PM

BF

“ *Barbara Barry Fries lit a candle in memory of Jean Louise Schemel*



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**Barbara Barry Fries** - January 17, 2021 at 08:57 PM

BR

“ *So sorry about Jean's passing. I worked with her for many years at M & I. She was great fun and my husband and I enjoyed many get togethers at her home. Will miss her humor. Grateful that she is now with her family in heaven. Barb and Dave Rudin*

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**Barbara Rudin** - January 17, 2021 at 05:28 PM