



## Jean Calmes Morgenstern

November 22, 1933 - November 24, 2019

Jean Calmes Morgenstern celebrated her 86th birthday on Friday evening, dining with a daughter and grandson after a day of receiving calls and cards from family all over the country. A photo taken that night captured her vitality, beauty and happiness.

Unfortunately, the matriarch of a blended family, Jean came to the end of her life as independently as she lived it: She called an ambulance for herself just before 1 a.m. Sunday, November 24, 2019. She passed peacefully from a heart attack a short time later.

Born Carmelita Jean Feehan in McComb, Ohio, on November 22, 1933, she delighted in the uniqueness of her birthdate, 11-22-33 -- Jean grew up on a farm near Deshler, the daughter of John Feehan and Marie Krebs Feehan. Her father was part of a large Irish clan, her mother the daughter of German immigrants. After Jean graduated in 1951 from Deshler High School, where she was a good student, band member and cheerleader, she moved to Toledo. She did some local modeling and got a clerical job at the Internal Revenue Service. There she met a Treasury agent, James William Calmes. They married on June 13, 1953, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

The couple, active parishioners at St. Clement Church, had four children and

Jean was nine-months pregnant with their fifth when Jim suddenly died in April 1966. By 1969 she'd been introduced to William J. Morgenstern, a widower with four children. In September of that year was the debut of "The Brady Bunch," the iconic television series in which a widow and widower marry and bring together six children. Two months later, on Jean's birthday, she and Bill married at Christ the King Catholic Church and merged their nine kids. Despite enough rough episodes for their own TV sit-com, the merger became a very close family. For years, they lived on Kingsmoor Drive in West Toledo, spending their summer weekends escaping to fish the shores at Catawba Point. Their little slice of heaven was just feet from the Lake Erie shoreline with a gorgeous view toward the Miller's Ferry docks and South Bass Island.

After the kids were grown and gone, Jean and Bill downsized to the condominium in Sylvania Township. They traveled to Texas, California and Washington, D.C., visiting grandchildren. In 1998, she lost Bill to a sudden heart attack. Thereafter Jean liked to say that she lived with "two angels" on her shoulders, Bill on one, Jim on the other.

For the past two decades, Jean lived alone but was frequently in the company of her children and grandchildren, now being doted on by them. She enjoyed trips to area casinos, either with friends or her daughters who also live in Toledo. In 2004, Jean was featured in The Wall Street Journal, in an article about Ohio's pivotal role in that year's presidential election by her daughter Jackie Calmes, then a Journal White House correspondent; mother and daughter went to the VFW post that Bill had joined, interviewing members there about the approaching election. In 2009, when Jackie had joined the New York Times, Jean went to the White House Christmas reception as her "date" and was photographed with President Barack and Michelle Obama.

As the grandchildren began marrying in recent years, she was a popular and

much-photographed attraction at their wedding receptions, dancing to the Rolling Stones and mimicking Mick Jagger well into her 80s, and earning the nickname, "Jean, Jean, the Dancing Machine." That reflected what granddaughter Carrie Hutcheson called "the two defining parts of her: family and fun. There's a reason we are all so darn loud and lively. She was the precedent."

Jean is survived and mourned by her five children, Jackie Calmes, Pat (Tim) Cotton, James (Marta) Calmes, Cathy Calmes and Connie (Norm) Szakovits; stepchildren, Marcie (Larry) Tscherne, Rob (Rose) Morgenstern and Steve (Rhonda) Morgenstern; eighteen grandchildren. She also was preceded in death by her parents; her older sister, Joan Pilewski, and in 1986, stepson Tim Morgenstern (Lynne Marshall).

Jean's final selfless act was to donate her body to science through The University of Toledo's Anatomical Donation Program for medical education and scientific purposes.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Sunday from 1-7 p.m. at the Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue, (between Secor and Douglas Roads), where a "Sharing of Memories" will be at 6 p.m. A memorial mass will be held Monday at 10 a.m. at St. Clement Church, 3030 Tremainsville Road. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cherry Street Mission, 105 17th Street, Toledo, OH 43604 or the Toledo Humane Society, 827 Illinois Avenue, Maumee, OH 43537.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 1. 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home  
3000 W. Sylvania Ave  
Toledo, OH 43613

## Sharing of Memories

DEC 1. 6:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home  
3000 W. Sylvania Ave  
Toledo, OH 43613

## Service

DEC 2. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Clement Catholic Church  
3030 Tremainsville Road  
Toledo, OH 43613

# Tribute Wall

NH

“ Jackie and family: Reading your mother's obituary brought back so many memories of our years together at St. Clement School, and of your parents partaking in the carpool to and from the Toledo Museum of Art for our art classes every Saturday for years. I remember that I always thought your mother was so beautiful and your dad was so handsome. The flood of memories has been almost overwhelming, My dad had to conduct a Communion Service at St. Clement immediately following the funeral, so he was hoping to see you, but everyone had left. My mother wanted me to tell you how beautifully written the obituary was, and I told her I'd take bets that it was Jackie who wrote it. You were blessed to have such an incredible, loving, and strong woman for your mother. I know you will miss her terribly. Please contact me if you get a chance.

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**Nina Houghton** - December 03, 2019 at 10:55 AM

JC

Nina, what a nice note. I'm so pleased to hear from you and, yes, I do remember those Saturday rides to the art museum. I was a fool not to take advantage of the full five-year scholarship. Please send along your contact info to [jackiecalmes1@gmail.com](mailto:jackiecalmes1@gmail.com).

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**Jacqueline Calmes** - December 08, 2019 at 10:41 AM

BS

“ So very sorry for your loss. Jean was a force who lived and enjoyed life on her own terms. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and especially her loving family.

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**beth schermerhorn** - December 03, 2019 at 06:55 AM

ME

“ I had the pleasure to meet Jean and Bill through their children. Class acts all ... the apples didn't fall far from the tree. A great woman with a great family. My thoughts and prayers to you all in this difficult time.

Mike Eldridge - December 02, 2019 at 04:22 PM

RH

“ I am so thankful that my life intersected with hers. She was full of life, full of love, and, despite a life that included some hardships, always ready with a smile.

Ron Hutcheson - November 30, 2019 at 05:55 PM

DC

“ Connie - Jim and I are so very sorry for your loss. May the sweet memories of your mother ease the sadness in your heart.

David Clarke - November 30, 2019 at 01:52 PM

RM

“ My sincere condolences to the Calmes and Morgenstern family. Jean was one of a kind and there will never be another one like her. She was always the belle of the ball and one of the classiest ladies I have ever met. Wishing you all hope in the midst of sorrow and comfort in the midst of pain.



Rose Morgenstern - November 30, 2019 at 10:56 AM

AM

“ Connie, So sorry to learn of the loss of your wonderful Mother. Sending love and hugs!!

Ann Mackley - November 29, 2019 at 09:45 PM

LO

*Connie so sorry for your loss I know how much you and your family loved your Mom*

**linda olrich** - November 29, 2019 at 10:32 PM

LH

“ *There are so many wonderful fun times with Jean, it is hard to pick just one. We always dressed up for Halloween and Jean dressed as a cat. Jean decided she had to go to the bathroom so we thought she would go inside. No!!!! She wanted to go down to the beach and use the sand box!!!!*

**Lynn Head** - November 27, 2019 at 10:49 PM

K(

“ *Jean was a wonderful neighbor. I had the trailer behind her. Jean and my father, Steve, were good friends. Matter of fact, she was one of the first people I met at Catawba. Jean would regale me with stories about the fun, her and her husband had with my dad, at the park.*  
*Jean was a lot of fun, and I enjoyed our conversations. Funny story...one of our first times drinking, I really was drunk. Everyone was, who was at Jeans. The next day, I felt like crap. I hear Jean outside on her patio, early. I yelled, how can you be so chipper this early? She smiled and said, Karen you are not seasoned yet, give it time! I tried to laugh, but my head hurt. RIP Jean, you will be missed.*

**Karen Coburn (Romeos)** - November 27, 2019 at 08:57 PM