



# Frances B. Bearden

OCT 27, 1923 - JAN 22, 2014



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## Frances B. Bearden

OCT 27, 1923 - JAN 22, 2014

**B**EARDEN, FRANCES BERESFORD died in Dallas on January 22, surrounded by her extended family, at the age of 90, of age related causes. She was born October 27, 1923, to Paul and Katherine Brown Beresford, of Mart, Texas. After graduating as valedictorian from Mart High School at the age of 16, she attended Southern Methodist University. She obtained her bachelor's degree in 1943 and went to work at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. There she met and married the love of her life, artist Edward Carpenter Bearden. They married in March, 1945. Their two children survive her, Katherine Bearden of Austin, Texas, and Mary Ann Bearden of Eugene, Oregon. She is also survived by three grandchildren, Sean Michael O'Malley (Anne Mercogliano) of San Francisco, California, Dr. Lee O'Malley Keegan (Chris) of Austin, Texas, Alana Caitlin O'Malley of Washington, D.C. and one great grandchild, Kate Frances Keegan. She is also survived by many cousins, two nieces and a nephew. Fran had a keen intelligence along with a powerful curiosity and enjoyment of life, which led to a life well lived, full of travel, adventure, art, music, food, wine, and entertainment. She and her husband Ed were very involved with all aspects of the art world and involved with political causes often associated with artists and the free expression of ideas. Their home saw visits of luminaries of the artistic world from Diego Rivera to broadcast artists on the run from the HUAC during the McCarthy era. Fran was a real survivor, widowed by Ed's untimely death from heart disease in 1980, when she was only 57, she lived a full life thereafter, surviving lung cancer, then breast cancer, traveling widely on SMU trips abroad, with her family in the U.S. and abroad, attending classes at SMU in adult education areas that interested her, attending water exercise classes as long as she was able, reading voraciously and always learning. She had a large circle of good friends throughout her life and just kept making more friends. She was well loved and will be missed by many. Memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM, Friday, January 24, at Highland Park Methodist



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Church, Cox Chapel. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to American Cancer Society or Friends of SMU Library.



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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