



Jean Smith Cherry

April 9, 1944 - September 14, 2020

Jean Smith Cherry was born April 9, 1944, in Rosenberg, Texas, daughter of Omar and Elouise Smith. She passed away on September 14, 2020, in Dallas, Texas.

Jeanne spent a joyful childhood at her home in Bryan, Texas, with her parents and two younger brothers, Terry and Don. An outstanding student and avid reader, she excelled in music and performed in many Stephen F. Austin High School musicals. And with her father as coach for Texas A&M tennis, she grew up surrounded by the world of Aggie athletics.

She attended Southern Methodist University in Dallas, majoring in English and Music Performance. Singing with the University Choir under Lloyd Pfautsch, she performed in several concert tours of the US and Europe. After graduating SMU, Jeanne taught elementary and high school in Dallas and, for a year, in Switzerland. In 1974, she became a travel agent, arranging fascinating vacations and tours and, as an agent, visiting cities and regions here and in Europe. Meanwhile, she continued singing with the SMU Perkins Chancel Choir as well as performing choral masterworks with the Dallas Civic Chorus.

In 1976, Jeanne joined the SMU Meadows School of the Arts as Director of Graduate Records, where she served until 2010. During this time, the Meadows School expanded significantly, so that, through the years, Jeanne helped many hundreds of talented national and international artists gain graduate degrees in music, dance, theater, painting and sculpture, and broadcast media. Also in 1974, she married Tom Cherry, and together in 1986 they welcomed their beautiful daughter Eva.

Jeanne lived life with a special appreciation and freedom. She was an intrepid traveler from her youth, and as an adult she explored North and South America, Britain and Europe, and the Middle East, once even sharing Christmas Eve with a Bedouin family outside of Bethlehem. She voraciously read English mysteries, usually figuring out fairly well in advance 'who done it'. She lived in Cambridge for a year, singing in St. Mary's Church choir. She had High Tea at No. 10 Downing Street. Prince Charles was studying at

Cambridge University while she lived there. When walking the steps into a concert hall, the future king of England actually spoke to her! He said, "Good evening."

Jeanne's was a life of curiosity and discovery, delight in the colors and calls of birds, in flowers and trees and cats, in kings and queens, language and legend. She lived her life as blessed, and all who knew her felt blessed.

Jean Smith Cherry was preceded in death by her parents Omar and Elouise Beard Smith and her brother Terry Omar Smith and survived by brother Don Alan Smith and daughter Eva Beverly Cherry. Graveside services for the family only will be held at 1:00 PM Friday, September 25, 2020 at College Station Cemetery in College Station, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Lakewood United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas.

Comments



“ I have many fond memories of working with Jean during our time at SMU. She was fun and always enjoyed a good chuckle She had a great attitude and seemed to be able to always put an issue into proper perspective. My heartfelt condolences to her family and many friends.

John Hall, SMU retired University Registrar

JOHN HALL - September 23, 2020 at 01:47 PM



“ Lakewood UMC Choir purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Jean Smith Cherry.



Lakewood UMC Choir - September 22, 2020 at 08:53 PM



“ Such a beautiful human being... I've missed her happy voice on the phone since she retired. So gracious and helpful. Sing with those heavenly choirs Jean!

Susan - September 21, 2020 at 02:04 PM



“ She made a difference in everyone's life she touched. Her knowledge, skill, diplomacy, kindness, humor, patience, and grace were and will remain legendary for those of us whom she routinely helped, nay, saved from all kinds of blips and bleeps regarding the complexities of bureaucratic details. She mentored students like a mother hen. She mentored faculty the same way. Her joy, her smile, her gifts, were given so freely and made a real difference for so many of us. Rest in peace, beautiful Jean.

CAROL Reynolds - September 21, 2020 at 08:12 AM



“ In October of 1980 I returned to my home state of Texas after a stint in KY, TN and CA! I was graciously offered a place to hang my hat for a month or so in the home of Tom and Jeanne Cherry. I ended up living there for approximately 3 months until i could purchase a home of my own. During this time I got to know Jeanne and Tom very well. Jeanne was always an inspiration. Her contagious laughter filled the house. She was a walking encyclopedia too .. smart and quick. I gave her a #1 metal knick-knack as she was to me the most joyful person i had ever been round! She graciously returned that gift on my wedding day and gave it to my wife, saying “well it looks like you are #1 now”! I'll miss her and of course always love her...

Rest in peace Jeanne,
Red Dog

Young John "Red Dog" - September 19, 2020 at 06:41 PM



“ Such a dear, wonderful lady! I loved working with her - so bright and helpful, knew everything we needed to know. Had a great laugh. I loved her cherry memorabilia! So privileged to know her!!

Lynette Hilliard

Lynette Hilliard - September 18, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ Lovely post for a lovely lady. Eva, I only met your mom a handful of times but this post shows so much of you and the things you love in it, I see how much you were alike. She raised an amazing daughter that I am proud to call my friend. Sending you and your family love always. Katie Newell

Katherine Newell - September 17, 2020 at 11:56 PM



“ She walked with grace.

Charles Dozier - September 17, 2020 at 06:43 PM



“ Jean gave me the most beautiful and simple parenting advice for teens. "We are not here to punish or insist, we are here to support -- to be the wind under their wings."
Thank you, Jean. I will never forget you.
Kelly Lane

Kelly Lane - September 17, 2020 at 06:34 PM