



# Carlene "Carla" Hansen

JAN 27, 1943 - MAR 22, 2022



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## **Carlene "Carla" Hansen**

JAN 27, 1943 - MAR 22, 2022

**C**arla Hansen of Oshkosh Wisconsin passed unexpectedly and peacefully in her sleep at her home on March 22.

She was born Carlene June Gear on January 27th, 1943 to Robert and Margaret Gear in Menasha, Wisconsin. She was an active student at Menasha High School and took pride in being part of the cheerleading squad.

She started her college career at Illinois Institute of Technology, pursuing a degree in nuclear physics. She put college on hold to marry her high school sweetheart, Andy, and start a family. She was the proud mother of 4 beautiful boys; Bruce (and Susie), who live in Hawaii, Richard (and Kandra), who live down the beach, Bob (and Liz) who live in Kiel and Mike (and Erica) who live in New York City. Additionally, she was a proud and happy grandmother to five wonderful grandchildren, Alexis, Eddie, Ally, Christopher and Annabelle.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers Thomas, James and Robert and is survived by her sister Annabelle in Long Beach, California and her brother Gerry, and wife Sandy, who live in Wausau, Wisconsin.

In 1985 while raising her four boys, she completed her college degree from University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, earning a degree in Accounting with honors. She went on to become a Certified Public Accountant, enjoying a career with Schumaker, Romenesko and Associates and finishing her career as a finance manager with Brickham Stamping.

She loved and cared for many living things and was an active birder. She took great interest in seeing and identifying new birds for her life list, often traveling with her sister Annabelle to see new places and new birds. Her decades long dedication to the Winnebago Audubon Society earned her a Meritorious Service Award.



## Obituary

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Her family are lifelong active members of the boat racing community, traveling throughout the country racing. She was dedicated pit crew for her family and was responsible for 3 national champions, two of her sons (Bruce and Mike) and her husband Andy, a member of the Racing Hall of Fame. Andy called her the Big Engine because she kept everything moving and working well.

She always looked forward to spending time with her husband, children and grandchildren. She brought people together and made the lives of those around her better. As a loving wife, mother and friend, she will be dearly missed by many. A memorial service and celebration will be held in the late spring.

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in her name to the Winnebago Audubon Society.  
<https://www.winnebagoaudubon.org/donate>.



## Tribute Wall

**Carlene "Carla" Hansen**

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**Carla Hansen** posted:

Please join us in celebrating the life of Carla Hansen at the Paine Art Center and Gardens Conservatory on Sunday, May 15th from 11:30-2:00 pm. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Bring your favorite memories to share with friends and family. Paine Art Center and Gardens 1410 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh, WI 54901 the Paine.org

April 19 at 7:25 AM



**Aaron Klockzien** February 18 at 6:01 AM

Another class mate gone so sorry.



**Lora** posted:

It's hard to put into words just how beautiful Carla's smile really was... Throughout my life, the best way to spend time with Aunt Carla and Andy was to find out where Andy was racing, and meet them there for a visit. What an honor to have been included for a brief moment, in what was their lifelong passion. There was always a chair available and good story. As an adult, I was able to take my own daughter to a race and spend the day visiting and making memories. One time we were barely out of the car when Carla took my daughter by the hand and walked off to see a huge "Burl" that she had spotted in a nearby grove. Carla had a light about her, I feel so blessed to have known her... Much Love, Lora (Gear) Bayer

March 28 at 5:53 AM



## Tribute Wall

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**Colleen (Gear) Johnson** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Carla was my dad's (Robert Gear) little sister and my "Fun Aunt" Always smiling and full of life. My dad was in the Air Force, and "home" was wherever they sent us, which was never in Wisconsin, so we didn't see her much during those years. In 2008 we reconnected and I met my cousins (her sons) for the first time at various events over the years. The thing that I will most remember her for though, is the gift of family. As a military "gypsy" I never had an answer when people asked where I was from. Carla changed all that. On our way to the UP, we stopped to visit Cara and Andy and Carla took me on the Gear family history tour of Menasha. She gave me "roots" and a connection to my family that I treasure. With much Love, Colleen (Gear) Johnson



March 26 at 4:16 AM



**Dorothy Jones** April 2 at 12:13 PM

One of my classmates from Menasha High wrote me that one of my relatives had died but I couldn't imagine who as no one had informed me. Carla is my cousin---I am the youngest of the Hugh Gear family and I have lived away from WI since I was 19. My husband was in the military and we met up with Carla's brother Robert some where in our travels. Sorry that I did not know more of Carla and her siblings---we lived just one street over from them. My family lived next to the dairy. Last weekend Linda Gear Stoll and her husband visited me from WI and we talked a lot about the Gear family---Linda has all the history of the family ---I was about 5 or 6 when the Gear Grandparents died so don't remember too much. At 91 my memory isn't too good. I have long longevity on the Heckrodt side so hopefully I'll be around for a few more years. AMEN!!!!!! Dorothy Gear Jones



# Media

**Carlene "Carla" Hansen**

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**Colleen (Gear) Johnson** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 26 at 4:16 AM



Gear Dairy



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

Join us in honoring Carlene "Carla" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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