



## Joan Arline Hoelaars

March 6, 1933 - October 25, 2022

Joan A. Hoelaars, age 89, passed away October 25, 2022.

Joan was born on March 6, 1933 at home on Elmhurst in Detroit, Michigan to Lewis Caine and Marguerite Blasen Caine. Born with congenital glaucoma, she spent her life dealing with ever worsening eye problems that took her sight in 1963, at age 30. A longtime resident of Royal Oak, she was raised in Ferndale from age 3, and lived in Berkley for 20 years when first married. Attended Wilson Elementary and Taft School Sight Saving Room. Graduated from Lincoln High School in 1952. On January 28, 1956, Joan married her high school sweetheart, George Jan Hoelaars. They both attended Wayne University, where she graduated in 1957 with a Bachelor in Art Education. She taught elementary art in Detroit for one year, and had to refuse a new contract, as she was pregnant for her first child. Joan did not let her lack of sight hold her back.

She was an avid historian and genealogist, joining the D.A.R., Ezra Parker chapter, with nine proven ancestors. She was a Brownie troop leader, rode in many tandem bike rallies with George, loved to travel, and go to car shows with George and his award winning 1938 Chrysler Royal. She always had an audio book playing while she did her housework.

Beloved wife of the late George. Dear mother of Lynn Popa, Lisa (Patrick

Costigan) Hoelaars, and the late Lenore Hoelaars. Proud grandmother of Jodi Hoelaars Jordano. Dear sister of Patricia (the late James) Schramm.

A memorial gathering will be held on Wednesday, November 2, from 10 a.m. until time of service, 11 a.m., at First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak, 320 W. 7th Street, Royal Oak.

Memorial contributions to First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak, Royal Oak Historical Society, WRCJ Radio or WUOM Radio are appreciated.

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# Cemetery Details

## White Chapel Memorial Cemetery

621 W. Long Lake Road  
Troy, MI 48098

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

NOV 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church of Royal Oak  
320 W. Seventh Street  
Royal Oak, MI 48067