



Julia Bonita Lewis Miller

August 9, 1937 - March 17, 2023

Julia Bonita Lewis Miller was born in Greenwood, MS on Monday, August 9, 1937, to Morris Lewis, Jr. and Freda (Lantor) Lewis. She had an older brother Morris Lewis III. She was extremely close with her parents and brother and loved them dearly. She lived most of her life in Indianola, MS.

Julia graduated from Indianola High School. She attended H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College of Tulane University and the University of Colorado. She was a member of the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority.

Julia Lewis married Jerry Miller in Indianola at her parent's home and moved to Denver before relocating back to Indianola. She moved to Houston and then Dallas three years ago to be closer to family. She and Jerry had two sons Scott Lewis Miller and Geoffrey Lewis Miller. She and Jerry divorced, but they remained close throughout the years.

She worked at Sunflower Food Store, the family business, as a bookkeeper. She was a member and was deeply involved in many organizations. She was a Cub Scout den leader, officer of the Pilot Club, member of the board of directors of the Indianola Country Club, ran the Duplicate Bridge club, and was a leader in the Chamber of Commerce. However, her most important and meaningful role was that of an incredible mother to her two sons as she was actively engaged in raising Scott and Geoffrey.

Julia loved going to the movies with family and friends. *Gone with Wind* and *The Ten Commandments* were her favorite movies. Charlton Heston and Yul Brynner were her favorite actors, and it was Yul Brynner's public service announcements which inspired her to quit smoking. One of her favorite interests was golf in which she was the Ladies Club Champion for many years at the Indianola Country Club. She was a superior bridge player, became a Life Master, and loved teaching bridge. She enjoyed other card and board games. She relished gambling in Las Vegas and other casinos playing blackjack and the nickel slot machines for hours. She enjoyed tap dancing, bowling, tennis, knitting and of course attending her children's and grandchildren's many activities and sports events. She was a huge dog-lover and was superb at cooking and baking. She treated everyone the same way and made everyone she met feel special. She was philanthropic, family oriented, and traveled the world. Her favorite place to be was anywhere with her family and friends. She was very popular, smart, kind, and a beautiful woman on the outside and inside.

She was Jewish and loved her faith. She grew up as a member of the Hebrew Union Congregation in Greenville, MS and was a very active member at the Houston Congregation of Reform Judaism.

She is preceded in death by her parents Morris Lewis, Jr., and Freda (Lantor) Lewis, her brother Morris Lewis III, brother-in-law Robert Talpers, and her two sisters-in-law Harriet Lewis and Henrietta Talpers, her aunts and uncles Norma and Celian Lewis, Fay and Joe Berman, Nathan and Raynell Lantor, Frances Ehrlich, and William Lantor.

Julia leaves behind to cherish her memory her sons Scott and his wife Julie and Geoffrey and his wife Kathy. Her beloved grandchildren are Madelyn Ilana Miller, Landon Reid Miller, Jillian Faith Miller, Olivia Miller Tibbetts and her

husband Austin, and Blake Lewis Miller. Her one precious great grandchild is Jackson Lewis Tibbetts.

She maintained special relationships with Jerry Miller, formerly of Denver, Houston, and now San Antonio, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Sue and Jerry Deutser, of Houston, cousins Joan Burwell of Jackson, MS, Bob and Sondy Berman of Boca Raton, FL, Henry and Rose Paris of Oxford, MS, Karen and Steven Castellaw of Atlanta, GA, Arthur and Mary Jane Lantor of Advance, NC, nephews Lew and Stacy Lewis of Caldwell, NJ, Charles Lewis of Roswell, GA, Andy and Alisa Lewis of Decatur, GA, friend Al Lapidus of Houston, and her best childhood friend Libba Bailey of Pineville, NC.

Julia had a very special relationships with her parents, children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, and many friends she encountered throughout her life. She will be greatly missed.

A memorial service with a reception to follow will be held on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, 8500 Hillcrest Rd. Dallas, Texas 75225 with Rabbi Debra Robbins officiating. A graveside service will follow at a later date at her burial site next to her parents in Greenville, MS.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made in Julia's name to:

Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas - <https://jfsdallas.org/donate/>

The Institute of Southern Jewish Life - <https://www.isjl.org/donate.html>

The Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience - <https://msje.org/>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **16**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Temple Emanu-El
8500 Hillcrest Ave.
Dallas, TX 75225

With a Reception to follow

Tribute Wall

RT

“ Aunt Julia was probably the kindest, most sincere and genuine person I've ever known. We were August babies and reached out to each other every year with birthday wishes.

I didn't know we shared the same favorite movie, The Ten Commandments! I'll miss you so much, Julia!

Ron Talpers - April 16, 2023 at 01:58 PM

AD

“ The coming and going of a life is a human privilege that unleashes the reality of a sad heart.
But it is also a privilege to accept the reality hidden in our hearts and live with beautiful memories of our loved ones



Adriana - April 11, 2023 at 10:57 PM

LG

“ I met Julia in tap dance class at Bayland Community Center. She was the one who knew the dances and we followed along. It was quite a coincidence that we both belonged to the Houston Congregation of Reform Judaism. When Hurricane Harvey destroyed our home, Julia did everything she could to make sure we were taken care of from bringing us meals, clothing for my son, trips to Sam's for gas and food (since she was a member). She even found a contractor to help us rebuild our home when we were going to have to wait a long time for any we had found. Julia was always available to her friends (and strangers) in need. She was very attuned to suffering in the world and did her best to help when she found out. She was funny, generous, kind, and just a beautiful person inside and out. She will be missed greatly. Rest in peace Julia.

Lynne Gaudette - March 28, 2023 at 02:21 PM

LB

Sharing a memory of Julia is like asking me to share my life's story! Our mothers used to say that we were friends even before birth since "Miss Freda" and Mama used to walk together before we were born (insert here that she WAS 6 months older than I)!! Julia and her family lived at 508 E Percy St and we lived at 502 E Percy Street, but we were usually together at one of those places. A special fond memory was our weekend visit with Papa in Lexington. I vividly remember having breakfast with Papa and a parrot in a cage! And we spent time at Leroy and Irma's house picking up peacock feathers! And we laughed a lot. And we shared a lot. We still talked every week. Last memory....In Indianola on Sunday night we and many of our friends would go to the movie. Before that the Methodist church where I was a member had a youth fellowship meeting ... MYF ... All of our friends would go from whatever place of worship they attended. Well, when the time came to elect officers, we turned to the best one to do the job....Julia Lewis! And she was the best of everything and I will miss her every day.

Libba Bailey - April 11, 2023 at 06:04 PM

EJ

“ Oh how you'll be missed Julia. Thank you for being in our lives.
Elyce Jarvis

Elyce Jarvis - March 27, 2023 at 11:13 AM

MW

“ You will always have a special place in my
heart.



Marilyn Williams - March 26, 2023 at 10:39 PM