



Sondra Mellen Wakefield

October 30, 1932 - May 22, 2025

Sondra “Sandy” Mellen Wakefield, 92, a beloved mother, devoted partner, passionate animal lover, and gifted artist, passed away peacefully surrounded by family on May 22nd, 2025 in her home in Jupiter, Florida.

Born on October 30, 1932, in Mineola (Hampstead), New York, Sandy was the cherished daughter of Mae and Harold Mellen. She was predeceased by her brother, Stephen Mellen, and her son, David Wakefield. Sandy is survived by her devoted partner of over 40 years, Glendon Starling, who loved, cared for, and provided for her throughout their life together. She is also survived by her two sisters, Carol Highsmith and Marcia Branch.

Sandy was the proudest mother of her four children: Michael Wakefield (wife Charlyn), the late David Wakefield, Cheryl Puletti (husband Paul), and Stephen Wakefield (wife Robin). She was also a beloved matriarch to many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as a dear aunt to many nieces and nephews, all of whom adored her and were deeply enriched by her love.

Sandy’s life was defined by her artistic talents, her love for animals, and her deep sense of adventure. Her creative spirit shone through in everything she did — from her work as the illustrator for Gayfer’s Department Store to founding the Jupiter Farmer, a local newsletter that brought the community together and is still being used to do so over 30 years later. She was also the

owner of TYPEART, a business that showcased her exceptional skills.

After retirement, Sandy dedicated her time to volunteering at the local thrift shop, supporting domestic abuse victims. Her commitment to helping others reflected her compassionate heart and her desire to make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

Sandy's love for animals was evident throughout her life. She rescued many cats and animals of all kinds, always caring for those in need with a big heart. Her passion for horses was also a defining part of her life, owning and caring for them for many years.

Known for her quirky fashion sense, her ability to march to the beat of her own drum, and her uncanny ability to never be on time, Sondra brought humor and joy to every situation. She was always fashionably late — but that was just part of the charm that made her so unforgettable. Whether she was arriving just in time for Thanksgiving dinner (after everyone else had started) or showing up late to a family gathering with a big smile and an even bigger hug, Sondra knew how to make an entrance, no matter the time.

Sandy's kindness, creativity and love for her family and animals left an indelible mark on all who knew her. Her family will forever cherish the memories of her laughter, her devotion and her remarkable achievements.

A Visitation will be held from 11AM-1:00PM and the Memorial Service will be held at 12:00PM on June 14th, 2025 at Taylor Modeen Funeral home located at 250 Center Street Jupiter, Florida 33458. A luncheon is to follow immediately at the home of her sister, Marica Branch, located at 108 East Riverside Drive Jupiter, Florida 33469.

To continue her legacy of her love for animals, in lieu of flowers, memorial

donations may be made to Palm Beach Purrs at <https://palmbeachpurrs.org/pages/donate> or Busch Wildlife Sanctuary at <https://www.buschwildlife.org/waystogive>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
250 Center Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 744-2030
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

Memorial Service

JUN 14. 12:00 PM (ET)

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home
250 Center Street
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 744-2030
<https://www.taylorandmodeenflorida.com>

Tribute Wall

MD

“ Michele Downs lit a candle in memory of Sondra Mellen Wakefield



Michele Downs - June 10, 2025 at 10:43 AM

MD

“ Back in 1979 when Sandy & I began working at the Loxahatchee News (the Bressler's local weekly newspaper), I overheard Sandy talking about growing up in Mineola, NY. So, I introduced myself as her neighbor since I grew up about a half mile from her house in Garden City, NY. We became fast friends and remained so until her passing. In fact, Glen and Sandy had just started dating in '79 and he wanted to sell his old house in Jupiter. With a very generous offer, we were able to buy his old house and if it weren't for Sandy and Glen, I don't know if we ever would have been able to get in a house! Sandy and I worked together over the years, when I was out of work I worked with her at TypeArt, and then when she closed that, she worked for me in various positions. Sandy was ALWAYS my ardent supporter and faithful cheerleader. She is sorely missed. My love for her will never end and I only wish she didn't have to suffer for the past three years. My sincere condolences to everyone in the family and my apologies for not being able to be there as I am in TN for the summer helping my grandson and daughter. Rest in Peace dear friend.

Michele Downs - June 10, 2025 at 10:42 AM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janet - June 04, 2025 at 06:51 PM

JS

Dear Family Members and Friends ~ Our Mom, Sherald Virginia (nee Mellen) Handwork, used to, at aged 16, babysit Sandy when she was a baby and a toddler in Mineola, on Long Island, New York. Ginny was Sandy's First Cousin, since their Dad's were Brothers, Roy and Harold. Sandy was so special to me, even just having met her in person, once. We communicated regularly, having a love of our Family Genealogy. She was always cheerful, helpful, generous and kind. I will miss her dearly, and so will my Sister, Judy Handwork Panasci. See You when I Move To Heaven one day, Dearest Cousin Sandy! Love You Always, Janet (nee Handwork) Spencer in Texas.

Janet Handwork Spencer - June 04, 2025 at 06:58 PM

KF

“ Oh Miss Sandy! We first met when I was 17, and you always had a smile on your face! You was very funny and I loved your dry sense of humor. We shared the love of the arts and journalism. You were always so kind. I loved it when we had matching Chevy Baretta's!! There will always be a special place in my heart for you!! Say HELLO to David.... he's been waiting for you! Love you! ❤️
Kathy



Kathryn Fagan - June 04, 2025 at 01:02 AM

SH

“ Back in 1968 Mrs. Wakefield made a phone call and if not for that phone call I would not be here today. She saved my life, and I am forever grateful. Thank you, Sandy Wakefield. Condolences to the Wakefield family.

steve horton - June 03, 2025 at 08:01 PM

JS

“ Momma #2 I loved you like you were my momma. I will treasure the memories is the trips we took to LaBelle. You will be missed and never forgotten. Until we meet again, I love you.

jody Sopko - June 01, 2025 at 03:08 PM

JD

“ Sandy was amazing. She supported so many local goog causes and was my unofficial artist in residence. She was so talented and so much fun to work with. She'll be missed. Jan Davisson

Jan Davisson - May 31, 2025 at 11:05 AM

CW

“ Sandy you will be missed so much. You were the best mother-in-law a girl could asked for. I loved you as if you were my mother.

Charlyn Wakefield

Charlyn Wakefield - May 29, 2025 at 07:34 AM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Cheryl Puletti - May 27, 2025 at 09:54 PM



“ *Our cousin...we love you. Judy Handwork Panasci and Janet Handwork Spencer*

Judy Handwork Panasci - May 23, 2025 at 01:01 PM