



Jean Sebastian Noth

May 17, 1939 - January 22, 2026

Jean Sebastien Noth, a Milwaukee resident since 1959 known for his art exhibits until age 41 and later for his work helping local schools and childcare centers, passed away January 22, 2026, at age 86. He long lived with our sister, Malou. He had been transferred to hospice care after surgery and died surrounded by family, receiving final blessings from a Catholic priest.

Jean was actually a Holocaust survivor, born Jewish in Aix en Provence in France on May 17, 1939, and briefly interned at Camp des Milles as an infant with his mother, Elena Fels, and older brother Pierre, now both deceased, when Germany took over France. His late aunt Lucia and her first husband were also in Nazi concentration camps.

In 1941, with his parents, grandmother Bessie and brother Pierre, they fled to the US after an arduous journey to Portugal, first living in New York City, then Oklahoma before Milwaukee. His mother, Elena Fels Noth (later a full professor of music), had converted to Catholicism.

After attending Layton School of Art and graduating from UWM, Jean had exhibitions of his drawings and paintings until he stopped painting in 1979 to be a devoted caretaker to our mother on Wyoming Place, until she passed away in 1987.

Since then he lived with our sister and was active until days before his death, a familiar figure in the neighborhood helping with chores and walking the family dog. He has a large group of nephews and nieces, from his late brother Pierre and his surviving brother, Dominique Paul Noth.

As children they recall Jean's room filled with classic comic books and Disney memorabilia, detailed in a memorial tribute from his nephew Paul on his popular Substack (paulnoth.substack.com).

He is directly survived by our sister, Malou, with numerous nephews and nieces. He was an active presence in the Milwaukee community before his illness and death, helping his sister much as he had done for our mother.

Friends and family will gather to remember him with collections of his paintings and photos, along with conversation and food on Feb. 20, 2026, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Northshore Funeral Home, 3610 N. Oakland Avenue, Shorewood, Wisconsin 53211, also <https://www.northshorefuneral.com/>. This is an opening invitation to attend and remember.

The family recommends donations to a community service group of your choosing, since Jean was always happy in spirit and devoted to good deeds.

Previous Events

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

FEB **20**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Northshore Funeral Services

3601 North Oakland Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53211

(414) 961-1812

jarmata@icloud.com

<https://www.northshorefuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

SD

“ I understood Jean as a quiet, gentle man who deeply loved his family. I enjoyed every visit with Jean and his welcoming spirit. Our mutual love for Malou was present with each visit. I always found time to reach out to Jean and hear what was on his mind. I've had enjoyable conversations with Jean, from art to his favorite television shows. I will truly miss his presence in our world.

Sherry Duecker - February 03 at 12:55 PM

JK

“ Jean was very special to me when I visited his sister Malou in Wisconsin. His kind spirit and profound observations touched my heart in so many ways. Sending condolences to the family Janette Kohler

Janette Kohler - January 29 at 04:24 PM