



Norma Jane Broekman

April 14, 1937 - September 23, 2026
Oakland, California

Friends in Oakland remember Norma Jane Broekman, who died on September 23, 2026 at 89. Born April 14, 1937 in Oakland, carrying Romanian-American stories that arrived without footnotes. She grew up believing that showing up was the first craft.

She loaded pits that smelled of harvest and piecework. A dump-pit chalk board eraser opened more than doors; it opened payday. Colleagues still mention a dump-pit chalk board eraser.

She and Harold married in 1964 and raised four children without needing an audience. After Harold's death in 2019, she held to quiet habits-coffee before dawn, a tended yard, a voice on the phone that still checked in.

Neighbors remember snow shoveled past the corner that was not required. She preferred the hour before a town fully wakes. Oakland was home enough that she never rehearsed an introduction. The lunch pail still waits by the back door.

What remains is not a legend but a practice: showing up, keeping a promise, leaving a place better than you found it. Her life was the kind America is built from and too often forgets to name.

Services

A quiet remembrance in Oakland. Those who wish may give to a neighborhood library, food pantry, or workers' aid fund instead of flowers.

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