



Maida Murray Jones

April 3, 1945 - January 29, 2026

Maida Murray Jones, 80, of Winchester, Virginia, passed away comfortably on January 29, 2026, at Winchester Medical Center.

Born on April 3, 1945, at the AAF hospital at Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Alabama, to the late Harold S. and Edith Murray.

She saw a lot of travel in her early years. Living in the Philippines, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Florida before settling in Columbus, Georgia after her father departed the military from Fort Benning, Maida graduated from Baker High School where she designed costumes and built sets for the school plays. After graduation, she attended Columbus College and then New York University. From there, she pursued costume design at the Barter Theater in Abingdon, Virginia, where she rubbed elbows with some future celebrities.

A remarkable artist, her designs brought characters to life through imagination and fabric. Her journey continued to the Wayside Theater where she continued designing costumes and met an aspiring actor, Robert V. Jones, Jr., who she would marry on June 17, 1965, in Winchester, Virginia. The year 1968, brought a son and another son arrived in 1972. Maida took a break until she went to work for Shenandoah Conservatory of Music.

Maida made costumes for many productions; Music Man, Carousel, Pippin to name a few. After leaving Shenandoah, Maida went to work at Jo-Anns Fabrics. This led to her making wedding dresses, and cakes for some customers and even photographing the wedding.

Maida's last job was with Inwood Dance Company where she made a lot of

tutus for the annual Nutcracker performances.

After the death of her husband in 2009, she faced new challenges. She never had a driver's license. She remained independent with the support of her devoted son, Herbie, who ensured she made every doctor's appointment and shopping trip.

For the past seven years, Maida showed unwavering commitment to her health by attending dialysis three times weekly without fail or hesitation. Maida's love for life was evident. She found joy in storytelling, sewing, drawing, photography, cooking, and collecting Hallmark ornaments in abundance. She enjoyed every minute spent with her grandsons, who were the light in her life.

Maida will be lovingly remembered and forever missed by her sons Robert V Jones III (Kim Crews), Herbert H Jones (Rhonda), grandsons Casey and Jaxon Jones; brothers Charlie (Wyllis Nell), Bobby (Rena), and Herbie Murray; and sister Gail Champion (Leon), and sister-in-law Judy Anderson; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and grand-pets.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert V Jones, Jr, and a menagerie of pets from cats, birds, and Doodle the Duck! Also preceding her in death were her parents (Harrold S. Murray and Edith Murray Deramus), her sister-in-law Janice, and nephews Glen and Todd.

Maida faced life with humor even in its difficult moments. Two weeks before her passing, when given the option to stop her dialysis treatments, she declared she wanted to be here for her family and she still had people she needed to yell at.

There will be no services per her request. Memorial contributions can be made in her name to The Winchester Little Theater.

Such a talented human being she was!

Tribute Wall

AB

“ I was one of Maida’s costuming interns in the late ‘70s. I remember late nights in her basement with sewing machines going full-tilt and from time to time eating great fruitcake she made in huge batches (mixed in a baby bathtub, she swore) while listening to her stories. Maida was one of the most interesting and entertaining people I have ever met. She was amazingly creative and willing to share her knowledge, hard-working, really funny, and interested in and curious about almost everything. My husband Dave and our son Brandon knew and loved her as well, and we are so sorry for your loss; she was one of a kind. We will miss her.

Audrey Bryant

Audrey Bryant - March 31 at 04:17 PM

KS

“ Maida designed a made my wedding dress back in 1987 along with designing my wedding invitation. I enjoyed the many plays she had designed costumes for. She was quite a talented person.

Kathy Sargent - February 17 at 05:34 PM

BC

“ Maida was a wonderful neighbor on Whitlock Ave, but, before that, she was a terrific costume designer for "Cabaret" in 1972 at S.U.! Such a sweet, talented special soul!

Barbara Cooper - February 13 at 12:32 PM

JC

“ *What a wonderful personality Maida was. We met when our kids were small and we lived in the same neighborhood. She made a beautiful birthday cake for my daughter when she was 3 years old with a ballerina on top. She also made the dress that I wore at my daughter’s wedding, my sister’s wedding dress, and my niece’s flower girl dress for my son’s wedding. She gave much help with costumes for the kids. I always loved her Christmas trees and stories of the adventures with the birds and animals they nurtured. My deepest sympathy for her family. Many cherished memories of this beautiful and talented lady. Jennifer Carper*

Jennifer Carper - February 12 at 08:17 PM

CH

“ *I first met Maida at Wayside Theatre where she was the costume designer for the summer season of 1965. Of all the many theatre professionals I have known over the years, Maida Jones is at the top of the list for artistic talent and creative work. She was totally dedicated to creating costumes that were detailed and beautiful. Her excitement and dedication were inspirational. I also witnessed her costume work at Shenandoah University where she was a member of the first staff in the musical theatre department. Her artistic excellence was part of the foundation that led to the present high quality theatre programs at Shenandoah. My heart goes to her family at this loss of a mother and grandmother. Maida’s legacy lives on in her creative accomplishments that were enjoyed and appreciated by so many.*

Charla Hayen - February 11 at 02:40 PM