



Dear Family and Friends of Pallie Jean Stenzel:

On Saturday, June 18, 2022, Jean, our mom, passed away peacefully of natural causes, at home, surrounded by children and grandchildren. She was fortunate to have been mostly fit and healthy until her last few days.

As many of you know, Jean was born in Long Beach, California, in the Naples Canal district, on September 14, 1928. Her father, Deane A. Bottorff, was a teacher and administrator specializing in technical and vocational education for students as well as adults and veterans in the Long Beach Public Schools. He was an early pioneer in radio technology and small electric vehicles, as well as being an accomplished carpenter. Deane and his father Fount O. Bottorff (who sold the farm in Iowa to follow Deane to California) built their own houses when they arrived in Naples. Deane's house still stands. Jean's mother, Emily May Bottorff, a native of Manitoba, Canada, was an artist, gardener, amateur architect and highly accomplished seamstress as well as a home economist.

Jean had a sister, Virginia Deane, four years her senior (but who was six years ahead in school) who, after attending UC Berkeley, moved to Mexico. She built and owned a small publishing company, Minutiae Mexicana, that specialized in books about Mexican history, archaeology, wildlife and culture "for the educated layman." Virginia married politician and Congressman Carlos Barrios and had a son Andres and many grandchildren. Virginia lived there until she passed away in 2007.

Jean attended Long Beach Beach Public Schools, graduating from Wilson High in 1947. She went to UC Berkeley, majoring in Labor Economics and graduated in 1950. From there she

moved to San Francisco and did a graduate fellowship at the Coro Foundation. While there she met her husband, William (Bill) Stenzel (1923-2003) and they married in 1953 in the garden of her parent's home in Long Beach. Bill and Jean soon moved back to Boston, where Jean worked at the fledgling Brandeis University as a special assistant to the President. One of her favorite jobs was to periodically ferry Leonard Bernstein, who didn't drive, back and forth from his home to the university.

In 1956 they built and moved to an innovative, prefab "Core House" in the woods of Sudbury, Massachusetts. Jean became active in the community and the League of Women Voters. When Bill was promoted in 1965 to the Cleveland headquarters of Premier Industrial Corporation, they moved to Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Here Jean was even more active in the League of Women Voters and other community, educational, and environmental work. She helped lead the start-up of several education-innovation consultancies and founded a company, Mexico Information and Consulting Services, to market and sell Virginia's books. One of her volunteer jobs was looking after and counting bluebird nests and hatchlings at the Holden Arboretum. She also played a lot of tennis in summer and winter (indoors). Her most arduous and successful job, however, was raising four children: Jeff b. 1954, Anne b. 1957, Peter b. 1958 and Chris b. 1960.

Once the kids were well launched in school, Jean found a new way to occupy her time. She worked from about 1973-1986 for the International Platform Association, which was headquartered in the sunroom of neighbor and IPA President, Dan T. Moore. Many, many hours were invested in editing the newsletter and preparing the annual Washington DC convention. The work brought mom into contact with many celebrities and newsmakers who benefited from her superior organizational skills and the tact she brought to handling every twist and turn in schedules and programs.

Jean loved to travel and made several trips to Europe with Bill as well as an epic month-long camping trip with Bill and the kids around Europe in 1972. She also traveled to visit family in Iowa, Long Beach and Mexico whenever possible. In 1986, Bill retired and they moved to the house May and Deane had designed and built as their retirement home in San Clemente, California. By that time, Deane (1896-1973) had passed away. May was on her own, so Bill and Jean came to live with her.

By this time the four kids were scattered to the four winds and Jean and Bill enjoyed traveling to many places overseas, such as Australia and Malaysia, as well as to Maine, Washington, San Francisco, nearby Redondo Beach and other locations to visit their children and grandchildren. In her California years Jean became much more active in social and cultural pursuits, including walking with groups of friends, playing Bunco with neighbors, and venturing to innumerable symphonies, plays and museums. Just reading her weekly schedule would have been enough to exhaust most of us! Jean also volunteered for many years doing office work and management for the Friendship Shelter in Laguna Beach and as a docent at the Casa Romantica in San Clemente.

In 2017 Jean suffered three mild cerebral strokes that impacted her mobility, preventing her from gallivanting around as much as she had previously. Fortunately, Jean enjoyed the warm

friendship and companionship of a cadre of devoted friends and neighbors who kept her company until the very end. She loved watching the variety of birds that came to the birdbath, ate birdseed on the patio, perched on the telephone wires, or glided on the breezes from the ocean. The hummingbirds that hovered at her feeders and that nested in the tree outside the patio door were her favorites. She also cherished her garden and her cat Mimi. In her last years and days Jean enjoyed the loving care of Mrs. Welina Perault and Ms. Dolly Lambert, two of the most caring and devoted people you could ever meet. Our family owes a great debt of gratitude to them for making it possible for Jean to live comfortably in her own home until the end.

There is not enough space or time to enumerate all of the things Jean was interested in and could discuss knowledgeably. Nor is there scope for describing her energy, intelligence, thoughtfulness, grace, elegance, moral integrity or marvelous sense of humor, but you who knew her will have your own memories of these qualities and we hope these will console you in the loss we all share. She leaves behind her four children, Jeffrey, Anne, Peter and Christopher and eight grandchildren. Jean was an amazing human being. She set an example that all her children and grandchildren hope to emulate.

Although Jean loved flowers, we request that you not send any flowers, please. If you would like to make a contribution in her honor you might consider some of her (many) favorite charities, such as the [Orange County Rescue Mission](#), the [ACLU](#), the [San Onofre Foundation](#) or San Clemente's [Casa Romantica](#) - but really any charity you like will probably be one mom also supported.

Attached please find a poem that mom had saved because she felt it clearly expressed how she would like to be remembered:

