

## **Memorial Minute for Jean Flores, 1920-2003**

Jean Flores was born on January 8, 1920, in Marshfield, Missouri, the daughter of Ralph Hartman and Inez See Hartman. With her sisters, Roberta and Ernestine, and her brother, Richard, she grew up on the edge of the Ozarks, in and around Rolla, Missouri.

Following her marriage to Roger Johnson, she lived in Hawaii and the Philippines. She was evacuated to the U.S. shortly before the outbreak of World War II, in which both her husband Roger and her brother Richard died. Jean moved to Illinois to study at the University of Chicago and began graduate study in International Relations. During this time she met Primitivo Flores, a Filipino post-graduate student in physics, who became her second husband. Jean first became acquainted with the Society of Friends during these years.

The couple moved to New York in 1949, where their children, David and Susan, were born. In 1959 they moved to Long Beach, and Jean worked as a social worker for Los Angeles County. She earned a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Southern California in 1968 and worked for years with abused or endangered children and their families.

Jean became an active member of Marloma Meeting, and for many years attended Pacific Yearly Meeting with her children. In 1981 Jean and Tivo moved to the Bay Area for medical care for Tivo, and made their home in El Cerrito. Tivo died in 1984.

When they arrived in the Bay Area, Jean became a member of Strawberry Creek Meeting in Berkeley. She was active for five years as an Overseer in the Meeting, and later as a member of Worship and Ministry committee. She loved to be in quiet meetings for worship, and she contributed her peaceful, accepting spirit wherever she met with Friends. She also served on Peace and Social Concerns committee, incorporating this interest with her participation in the El Cerrito Democratic Club and the World Affairs Council in San Francisco. She became an active traveler, to Switzerland, where Susan lives, and to Sweden, continuing a friendship begun in her Chicago days.

Friends remember Jean's warmth of friendship and remark on her sturdiness within, acquired through a life of adapting to remarkable events and caring for those close to her as well as for the state of our world. She had an optimistic spirit with regard to world affairs, and envisioned a time of entering a radically different era, like the Renaissance, in which a new international community would emerge.

In 1999 when she could no longer live independently, she moved to assisted living near her son David and his family, including her two granddaughters. In her last year she was glad to be able to attend Palo Alto Friends Meeting. She passed away quietly on February 2, 2003, on her way home from meeting for worship.

Jean's family and friends joined with Strawberry Creek in a memorial meeting on March 2, 2003.