



Jean Rebecca Bruce

DEC 17, 1927 - NOV 10, 2016



Scan to Visit



CHAPEL
OF THE
CHIMES
OAKLAND

Funeral, Cemetery
& Cremation Services

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Tribute Wall	Page 5



Jean Rebecca Bruce

DEC 17, 1927 - NOV 10, 2016

Jean Bruce Remembrance

Born Jean Rebecca Gilbert in Flint Michigan on December 17, 1927, She was the second of three children born to Hazel Stevenson Gilbert and Alton Dwain Gilbert. Jean had an older sister, Claire, and a younger brother Bruce. Jean's family moved to Santa Monica California in 1937, where she graduated from Santa Monica High in 1946. The Gilbert family was devastated to lose Hazel to cancer when Jean was 16, but the experience of caring for her mother set Jean on her path to become a Registered Nurse. Jean's third grade teacher in Santa Monica, Gladys Montgomery, would become her stepmother and play an important role in Jean's life as mentor and friend, encouraging her to go to community college and then to nursing school. Jean attended University of California School of Nursing in Berkeley and San Francisco as a member of the 89th graduating class of 1952.

Jean enjoyed adventurous and fulfilling years as a young woman living and working as a public health nurse in San Francisco; socializing, attending the theater, doing community theater and traveling with friends, all the while keeping a scrap book of these times.

On one fateful excursion to Yosemite National Park in the summer of 1955, a mutual friend introduced Jean to Paul Bruce, who would become her husband for over 40 years. They were married February 5, 1956 in Rapid City Iowa, where Paul was in graduate school, and had her first son by the end of the year.

In 1957 they moved to San Diego California where Paul became a professor at San Diego State University. Jean devoted herself to being a full time mother, raising 3 boys, James Gilbert, Carl David, and Donald Alan. During this time, Jean and family would travel much of the US during spring and summer breaks, as well as host international college students in their home. Jean and Paul became members of the First Unitarian/Universalists Church of San Diego, remaining so all their lives.



Obituary

Jean Rebecca Bruce

DEC 17, 1927 - NOV 10, 2016

As her sons began to leave home, Jean took up nursing again, becoming a Nurse Practitioner for the San Diego Public School District. Also during this time, Jean received her Masters Degree in Councilor Education from SDSU.

Jean and Paul became influential members, elders if you will, of both the SDSU faculty community and the First UU Church community. They would host celebrations in their home of all sorts related to these communities. This included a regular square dancing group, a couples enrichment group and many New Years celebrations. Jean contributed to helping house minority citizens in San Diego. She supported the First UU's educational programing with difficult subjects including couples enrichment and sex education for UU Youth.

Jean survived a stroke in 1999, two years after the loss of Paul to cancer. This greatly reduced her actives in the community, but she continually pushed to recover with that never-give-up attitude of hers. In 2006 Jean moved to Oakland, CA to be with her son's Carl and Jim, and their families. She passed away November 10, 2016, one month before her 89th birthday. She is survived by her 3 sons and one grandchild, Gabriel Paul, and her elder sister.

Please join the Bruce Family for the Memorial Service to be held at:

First Unitarian Church

4190 Front St, San Diego, CA 92103

January 21, 2017 – 2:00 p.m.

email; jimgbruce@gmail.com with questions.



Tribute Wall

Jean Rebecca Bruce

DEC 17, 1927 - NOV 10, 2016

EC

Emery Cummins posted:

Dear Jim, Carl, and Donnieâ??I regret having to miss your mom's Memorial Service in San Diego. My memories of her and your dad (and all of you) will always resonate warmly in my heart. Back in 1968 when we adopted our son Chad, Jean came over to show us how to hold, bathe, and prepare formula for our 5-day old boy. We were beneficiaries of her experience as a public health nurse all those years. We've been out of touch for many years now, at least a decade, and I've often wondered about Jean and her sons. Your folks were among my dearest friends, and I recall fondly the many meetings and events hosted on Pontiac Street. Your dad had the office next to mine at SDSU, and we were great friends. I send all my good wishes to you guys and know that you will always carry wonderful memories of two magnificent peopleâ??Paul and Jean Bruce. Blessings and Cheer, Em Cummins

January 25 at 8:41 AM

BS

Barbara Sorensen posted:

Dear Jim and all the Bruce family: Thank you for sending me the announcement of the Celebration of Life for Jean. My husband, George, and I knew Paul when we were all students at Antioch College. When George and I moved to San Diego in 1956, where both Paul and George taught at SDSU, we renewed our friendship and met Jean. They invited us to attend the Unitarian Church and we shared many other happy times together over the years including local get-togethers of Antioch alumni, gatherings in each other's homes, dinners at restaurants, plays and other events at SDSU, Harbor cruise, and Faculty Wives events. After both Paul and George passed away, Jean and I met for lunch and took walks together. It was always a delight to be with her. I was sorry when she decided to move away and I have missed her. My heart goes out to all of the family at this sad time but I know she lives on in the memories of all who knew and loved her. Barbara Sorensen

January 18 at 6:26 AM



Tribute Wall

Jean Rebecca Bruce

DEC 17, 1927 - NOV 10, 2016



Joan P Cudhea posted:

Jim and Carl, I am sorry that I will not be able to attend your mother's memorial service, as I have a conflict that afternoon. Your dad Paul was a founder of the men's group that my life partner Tomas is still in (at age 90): Wise Men in Training – WIT. You may recall meeting me after he died, as I had asked if I could be of any help to your mother about finances, and he said yes. So sad that they could not enjoy the Africa trip that they had planning. So I visited with her a number of times, even after the stroke, until she moved north to be near you. It was a delight to read the obituary...I had not known about her nursing and the square dancing, for instance – only the connections with First UU San Diego. My loving thoughts will be with you – especially on January 21, and Tomas and I will send a gift to the church in her memory. Best from Joan Cudhea, former Certified Financial Planner

January 16 at 12:09 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Jean by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit

