

MARJORIE HAMPSON KINTZ
January 29, 1925 - September 1, 2005

Marjorie Hampson was born to Thomas Carlyle and Sarah Esther Hampson on January 29, 1925, in the San Joaquin Valley town of Tulare, California. She later spoke with pride of being a 4th generation Californian born of Scottish and English ancestors who had migrated to Canada and America and then made their way west from Virginia, Missouri, Kansas, Oregon, and Texas by clipper ships in the 1840s, covered wagons and stage coaches in the 1850s, and railroad trains in the 1880s and 1912.

Her father was born on a Kansas farm and her mother was born on a homestead claim near Fort Tejon in the mountains between Los Angeles and Bakersfield. After her mother died when Esther was less than five, her father arranged that she be adopted and she spent her early childhood in the mining country near Randsburg in the Tehachapi Mountains. Both families later moved to Tulare where Carl and Esther met and married. Marjorie was the middle daughter of three and she attended public schools in Tulare. She described herself as a shy child who was always about the smallest one class, but she could run fast!

She attended and graduated from San Jose State as a French major with her goal to teach in a high school. Her French professor bestowed the name of "Mimi" on her and Bob has never known her as Marjorie. Mimi was proud of the fact that she earned all of the money to pay for her college education. She joined the Teamsters Union to work summers on the "fruit salad" line in a cannery. It was during WW II that she also volunteered as an aircraft spotter watching for enemy aircraft that might attack a nearby flight training field.

Mimi was a graduate student living at International House on the UC Berkeley campus and Bob was one of the multitude of veterans returning to school on the GI Bill to finish his senior year at Berkeley when they both decided to attend a Senior Mixer dance on campus. That was the beginning of what eventually ended in their 57 year marriage. The romance may have been fast, but the engagement lasted nearly a year and a half. Mimi, who had changed from high school to elementary education went home to Delano, just south of Tulare, where she lived with her parents and taught school. Bob graduated from Berkeley and moved to Fresno State, only sixty miles north of Delano, to complete his teacher education. They were married in Delano on June 12, 1948, and after a short honeymoon at Big Bear Lake, started job hunting in San Diego County. Both secured teaching positions in Vista to become the first "couple" employed by the district. Mimi taught 4th grade but resigned after two years to have their son Mark and become a stay-at-home Mom. Susan arrived 23 months later.

Bob and Mimi actually built a significant portion of their first home on a half acre lot in Vista before Mark was born. It was a time when 800 square feet of home with an FHA loan was a very acceptable size. Both Mimi and Bob continued throughout their lives as unrepentent "nest builders." The Vista home grew to 1600 square feet before they sold and moved to Lake San Marcos in 1978 after their children had grown and become independent

Mimi never felt unfulfilled as a stay-at-home Mom although in the days of one car families, she looked forward to "getting the car" on weekends for her shopping and other activities. She looked forward to quiet afternoons while the children napped and she could get her feet up and read her newly arrived Ladies Home Journal. She was an avid and accomplished seamstress and sewed clothes for herself and Susan. She joined a reading-discussion group called the Delphian Society which met monthly. She was active in and held offices in the PTA.

When Susan was in early elementary school, Mimi organized a group of Camp Fire Girls who stayed together until they moved into high school. So close was the group that the women still meet for dinner on a fairly regular basis.

When Mark and Susan were both in middle school, Mimi went back to teaching, this time in Oceanside where she taught in several elementary schools before she helped to open San Raphael on the base at Camp Pendleton. She was an accomplished teacher who enjoyed her children and even produced class musicals. Ultimately, she taught another 22 years. Mimi was also very proud of the fact that it was her salary that paid for the college educations of her children and Bob's PhD.

Mimi's interests were many. She enjoyed both home and garden decoration. She was an avid reader and enjoyed her daily crossword puzzles. She had in recent years become very interested in genealogy and gathered as much information as she could from old family records on all of the families in her background as well as organizing as much of the Kintz information as she could discover.

She also had a lifelong desire to be a writer and journalist. An opportunity opened up when we purchased a lot and then built a home at Lake Shastina at the base of Mt. Shasta. As officers of an offsite organization, we published a quarterly multi-page newsletter for the association. We were later employed by the onsite homeowners association to write and edit its quarterly newspaper which was mailed to over 3000 lot and homeowners. Mimi developed each edition by doing interviews, taking pictures and writing general interest stories about the development and the Mt. Shasta area.

In 1959 Mimi and Bob became Charter Members of the Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Both worked hard in many ways all of their years as members. Among other things, Mimi taught kindergarden in the room that is now Bob's Nursery/Preschool. Mimi has said that she never held a board office until she had been a member for over 40 years. Her detailed work on the communicationms and membership committees and her picture boards are well known. She LOVED details!

Mimi enjoyed family tent camping and hiking in the mountains. Each June from 1961 to 1975 the family camped at Rock Creek in the Eastern Sierras at a camp site at 9300 feet. Our many hikes to enjoy the wild flowers, lakes and mountain scenery took us above 10,000 feet. Mark and Susan still remember those trips and each has returned in recent years with families.

Our home at Lake Shastina was comfortable summer and winter and while we were both teaching became a refuge from the pressures of teaching. Since it was only 70 miles south of Ashland, Oregon, we became members of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and saw many plays over 25 years during their nearly year long schedule. In the Spring, Lithia Park in Ashland is nearly as beautiful as the Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC.

Our retirement in 1984 opened the world of extended travel. Our destinations included the East coast and Canada in October, Alaska and the inland passage by ferry, two trips to England and the British Isles, and a trip with Jeanne Mielcarek to the continent. Mimi totally planned our first trip to England where we stayed three weeks in the same hotel room close to Kensington Gardens. The first week was spent exploring London by tube and bus. The second and third weeks we took trips every other day by train to destinations as far as 250 miles from London.

Our common interests and values allowed us to thoroughly enjoy our time together at home, reading, gardening, talking, camping, seeing plays, visiting museums, traveling or walking the walls and streets of ancient English cities. Our children and grandchildren completed a significant life.