

Jean Hansen

April 28, 1922 ~ January 10, 2021

On January 10, 2021, Lydia Jean Seal Hansen passed away in her home, where she had lived for 57 years. Jean was born on April 28, 1922, to Lydia Orgill and Franklin Seal, and grew up in then rural Riverton. After attending Utah State University and the University of Utah, Jean left school to work for the US Army at Ft. Douglas. When WWII ended, her regiment was re-locating to the Presidio and the general for whom she worked asked her if she would assist them in California. Always up for an adventure, Jean moved to San Francisco and absolutely loved her six years in the Bay Area. During this time, she met Robert B. Hansen and they were married in the Manti Temple on Dec. 28, 1949. After Bob graduated from UC Hastings Law School, they moved to Salt Lake City, where they raised five children on the Avenues.

Jean was the consummate mother, who was thoroughly engaged in her children's lives, including throwing creative birthday parties, serving as den leader, room mother, carpool driver, and PTA president at Bryant Jr. High. After her children were grown, she was invited to work for the legislature at the State Capitol, which she always found fascinating. After several sessions at the Capitol, Jean worked for the Psychology Department at the U., and then later worked for the University's Institutional Review Board. Our mom was very organized and efficient, and enjoyed working in such a stimulating environment. Jean was an outgoing, friendly woman, who easily made many friends wherever she worked.

Jean was a woman with style and excellent taste. She enjoyed collaborating with Ed Dreier and Merline Leaming to design and decorate a sophisticated and distinctive mid-century home. Our mom was extremely intelligent, hardworking, an excellent cook and had a delightful sense of humor. She particularly enjoyed playing April Fools pranks, which have become a family tradition. Jean also loved to travel, in the U.S. from Hawaii to Puerto Rico, and in Europe. An active and faithful member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, our mom served in many different callings in Primary, scouting, and Relief Society. One of her favorite callings was serving as the personal secretary to the President of the Ensign Stake for almost ten years. An avid reader throughout her life, our mom passed on her love of reading and literature to her family. Although macular degeneration eventually robbed her of her sight in her later years, Jean listened to countless audio books. Most of all, Jean loved her family. Our mom was an incredible cheerleader for each of her children and grandchildren.

Despite many serious health challenges, Jean was stoic; she never complained. Even in her 99th year of life, our mom still possessed a keen mind and great interest in the lives and activities of her family, friends, and neighbors. Jean was an amazing example of enduring to the end with grace and dignity.

Jean is preceded in death by her husband, Bob, and all four of her younger siblings, Lowe (Carol) Seal, Shirlee (Jim) Pennington, Ted (Dorothy) Seal, and Jone Foster.

She is survived by her children, Robert (Susan), Bill (Christa), Mary Ann (Scott) Rasmussen, John (Diane), and Matt, 18 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren.

Due to COVID-19, a funeral for family members only will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 16, 2021. All others are invited to watch via Zoom here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/m9-qpbshlp6YWmcd2YXaXwMvyJAQkVoLixzvdbXFx2OtswrKlFFXPub5lmGqJfaY.50j