



Ethelan Mae Acord Heaston

June 23, 1934 - December 23, 2016

Ethelan Mae (Acord) Heaston, age 82, died suddenly in her home in Corning, CA on December 23, 2016. Ethelan was born June 23, 1934 in Southgate, CA, the daughter of Arthur A. Acord and Mildred M. Dixon. They lived mainly in Southern CA, where Ethelan and her four siblings attended local schools and Sunday Schools, then she attended Bonita Unified High School in San Dimas where she graduated top of her class in 1952.

In 1954 under the care of the Claremont Friends Meeting (the Religious Society of Friends, unprogrammed Quakers), where she was a member, Ethelan married her first love, James K. Heaston. The newlyweds traveled across the United States for Christian service work with the American Friends Service Committee. They continued to be members of various Friends Meetings across the USA and they helped to found two new meetings in San Luis Obispo County. When no Friends Meeting was nearby, Jim and Ethelan held informal prayer and praise meetings in their home, or attended nearby churches of other denominations. They opened their home to travelers from around the world from many religious/philosophic backgrounds which led to an open and accepting family attitude toward diverse peoples and ideas—evidence that they never lost their focus on the “love thy neighbor” message of the Bible.

The couple continued to travel for eight years (with a growing family) as Jim

worked at various jobs and attained his MS and teaching credentials that led to Jim's employment as a High School teacher in math and science in San Luis Obispo County. Ethelan loved to go camping with Jim and their five children, Kaino, Tanya, Linnae, Ben and Daniel, during summers off from teaching, and on these vacations, they taught their children crafts, nature facts, and skills for living simply which included, of course, how to get along with others in small spaces. The evenings were spent singing folk and Christian songs as Jim played his guitar.

While raising these rambunctious children, Ethelan returned to college to achieve her spiritual leading to become an RN, graduating in 1976. She worked as a nurse in several maternity wards and in home health care in San Luis Obispo County for over 25 years. These nursing experiences, along with the experience of accepting Jesus into her heart at age 8, helped to shape her into the woman she became after this RN achievement. She lived each day as if it was her last, and brought comfort to others as an embodiment of her spiritual devotion. Sometimes the comfort was physical as in nursing, and sometimes it was through a cup of tea with homemade sweet treats and conversations about the meaning of life and spiritual dialogues such as bible studies in her home. While she did belong to many clubs and service organizations during her lifespan, it was these comforting, Spirit-led works for which she will be remembered most powerfully.

Claiming that Jim helped her overcome her early shyness, Ethelan blossomed into a woman who vibrantly engaged with friends, family and neighbors in every place she lived, mixing intellectual conversations with a very loving human outreach of the hands and heart through her hospitality as well as her handicrafts like handmade cards and gifts. She hosted many parties to honor family and friends, and a few to honor her own hobbies like puzzle parties where the guests all helped make jigsaw puzzles! She is well known by many friends and family around the world, especially in San Luis Obispo and

Tehema Counties, for her lightly sugared cookie delight she called “Rosettes.”

Ethelan was also an adventurer, and loved to fly in small aircraft with Jim during his retirement years when he became a small plane pilot and flying instructor. They flew mainly out of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, and Corning Airports in California with destinations as far as Canada. Many friends will miss Ethelan’s home baked goodies that she handed out freely to all she met on these trips.

Jim and Ethelan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family in Corning, CA in 2004—a highlight of her life. Jim died the following year. She is survived by two siblings, and all five of her children and their spouses as well as eleven grandchildren (many with spouses or significant others), and one great grandson.

A memorial to celebrate the life of Ethelan will be held on 25 February 2017 at 1:30 pm at the Corning Presbyterian Church, 471 N. Marguerite Ave, Corning, CA 96021. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributing to a favorite charity or the American Friends Service Committee. Ethelan especially wished for her memorial to be a joyful experience and to have attendees speak during the service. She wished to be remembered as someone who “Served God by serving others in multiple small ways.”

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB **25**. 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM (PT)

First United Presbyterian Church
471 Marguerite Ave
Corning, CA 96021

Tribute Wall



“ 7 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Hall Brothers Corning Mortuary - February 16, 2017 at 04:52 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Hall Brothers Corning Mortuary - February 16, 2017 at 01:31 PM