



THE HODGE-PODGE GAZETTE



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Joy and Sorrow Mix to Celebrate the Life of Jack Hodges

Gibran writes in "The Prophet": "I say unto you Joy and Sorrow are inseparable. Together they come, and when one sits alone with you at your board, remember that the other is asleep upon your board."

So it is for the Hodges Family and friends as they grieve the death of life partner, father, grandfather and friend, Jack Hodges, who died early on September 2. Although congestive heart failure was a health issue for many years, over the past year

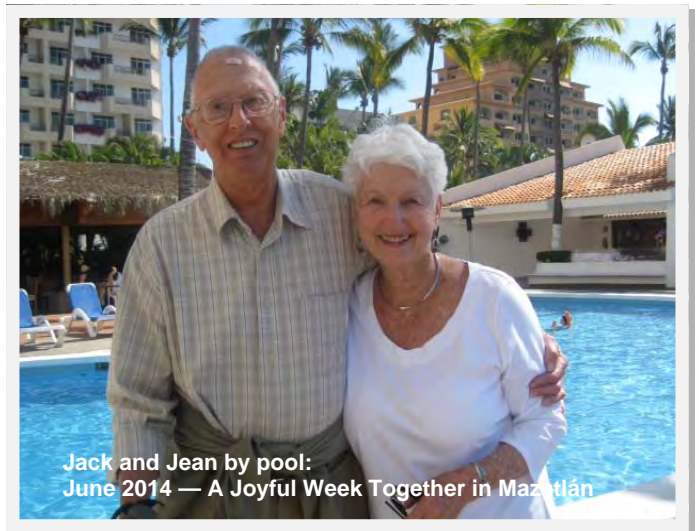


September 7 Celebration of Life: Beth, Kris and Jean at the Lazy Dog Saloon

Jack managed to live his life fully, even as it was winding down.

However, on June 26th Jack's heart and kidneys "hit the wall". Six days of

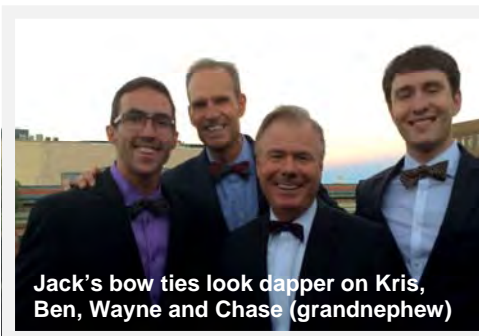
acute hospital care moved Jack home with eventual hospice care as increasing heart failure and resulting edema, caused breathing difficulties, limiting his ability (but not his desire) to continue his active life. Total care-taking by Jean was made easier by family members including John and Denise, Beth, Ben, and Liz, who all helped with overnight vigilance, frequent visits, and transporting "Dad Hodges" by wheelchair to church. Superb support by the Agape Hospice team included volunteers to stay with Jack so Jean could go to her



Jack and Jean by pool: June 2014 — A Joyful Week Together in Mazatlán

fitness classes and book groups. Friends from church, community and PFLAG also showed tender caring during this time.

On Labor Day, Sept. 1, Jack began the day with the cryptic announcement: "This is It". Fifteen of his extended family gathered for a remarkable ceremony where Jack called each person to his side to give a personal goodbye and blessing. The hospice nurse called it "his last hoorah" which was received with tears and enormous gratitude for a sacred and satisfying closure to a life well lived. At 1:00 AM on Sept. 2 Jean gave



Jack's bow ties look dapper on Kris, Ben, Wayne and Chase (grandnephew)

Jack his last medication and by 1:30 he stopped breathing and gently departed this world.

On September 7, First United Methodist Church was packed with some 400+ friends who joined in celebrating Jack's remarkable life. Go to Hodge-PodgeGazette.com to read the obituary and other writings, and



"In this Holy Season the Hodges Family Lights a Candle in Gratitude for the Light of Eternal Love Which Warms the Darkness"

also see the Celebration program. Jack's 86th birthday was celebrated with the interment of some of his ashes at Green Mountain Cemetery which lies on grassy hills below Boulder's Flatirons. A Navy honor guard presented a flag in gratitude for his military service; family notes and symbolic "remains" such as rubber bands, paper clips, Hershey chocolate kisses, and toothpicks joined his ashes in the burial vault. A picnic and group singing of Jack's old-time favorites followed at the site.



Love of Travel Drives Farewell Visits

The past year's major events were driven by Jack's desire to continue his world travels. Last fall, Jean and Jack joined others from their church to be "Pilgrims of Ibillin" where they visited the West Bank to witness the current oppression of Palestinian Christians and Arabs, as well as to see ancient sacred sites of Jesus' ministry. In January they returned to their beloved Inn at Mazatlán for their annual (since 1983) RnR by the Sea of Cortez and time with Jack's sister, Jo.

In March Jack was determined to make his first trip to Croatia and a "goodbye" trip to Greece. He and Jean invited son

John and his wife Denise to accompany them on a Dalmatian Cruise in order for Jack to have assistance with mobility. Beginning in Zagreb, he and John forged a new level of relationship, chatting at cafes over coffee while Jean and Denise explored cities and towns in Croatia and along the Adriatic seacoast, ending in Athens. With John's help, Jack climbed the steep walk in Delphi up to the Temple of Apollo to ask a burning question. The effort of making it so far was reward enough. Proud of his feat, Jack forgot to ask his question.

Jack's final travel dream was to take his whole family to Mazatlán, Mexico, so that they might experience the magic of ocean swimming and long walks on the beach. Nine of us were able to spend a week basking in the early June sun, exploring historic Mazatlán and just enjoying time together. Much as he yearned for a return in January 2015, family members will take some of his ashes to sprinkle in familiar places in his favorite Mexican retreat.



PFLAG National Calls Her "Madam President"

On October 24, 2014, at a National PFLAG board meeting in Washington, D.C., Jean Hodges was elected Chair of the Board and the new President of PFLAG National. This comes at a time of both dramatic personal change and swiftly evolving societal change to be reflected in the governance of this unique non-profit grassroots organization which is the family voice for LGBTQ equality and inclusion. As her most ardent supporter, Jack Hodges dreamed of this office for Jean.

PFLAG has grown to nearly 400 chapters across the country with some 30 new chapters emerging this year in small towns and rural areas. Fast moving social change has helped people in conservative areas to feel brave enough to organize for support, education and advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ persons. As the new "face" of PFLAG, Jean hopes her twenty years of local and regional leadership will offer encouragement and inspiration to take PFLAG National to the next level of visibility and effectiveness in moving LGBTQ equality forward.

