

Jean was born on August 27, 1933, the daughter of Charles and Urva (Morris) Hinman, in Moline, IL. Her passion was theater, beginning in junior high school. After graduating high school, she began working and raising a family, and did not return to the theater until the 1980's, when she was invited to help with a play at Richmond Hill Theater in 1982. In 1989, she moved to California, but returned to Geneseo in 2004 where she jumped right back into theater work. Jean was an integral part of Richmond Hill Players from 2004 – 2016. She was part of approximately 60 plays, some as an actress, but mostly as a costumer and set designer. She also was a member of the Board of Directors for the Richmond Hill Players.

Jean loved cats and volunteered at the Henry County Humane Society – Geneseo. She was an avid reader and liked collecting antique oriental artwork. She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church, where she sang in the choir during Sunday services.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children, Tami (Kevin) O'Neil, Santa Rosa, CA, Brian (Jean) Berry, Geneseo, IL, and Tracey Harvey, Danville, CA; grandchildren, Jason McGowen, Covington, IN, Trisha (Jason) Switzer, Williamsport, IN, Jessica (Jose) Urquiza, Geneseo, IL, Jennifer Berry, Geneseo, IL, Rachel Harvey, Browns Valley, CA, Bailey O'Neil, Santa Rosa, CA, Daniel (Allie) Harvey, Reno, NV, and Grace O'Neil, Santa Rosa, CA; nine great-grandchildren, sisters, Sandra Griffith, Colona, IL, and Cheryl Schroeder, Cascade, CO.

She was preceded by her parents, Charles and Urva Hinman, of Rock Island.



*Remembering*  
THE LIFE OF  
**Jean E. Melillo**

August 27, 1933- December 1, 2021

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When we are gone,  
and people weep for us & grieve,  
let it be because we  
touched their lives with  
*Beauty & Simplicity.*

Let it not be said  
that life was good to us,  
but, rather, we were good to life.

- Jacob P. Rudin

A Memorial Service  
To Celebrate Her Life  
Tuesday | December 7, 2021 | 11:00 a.m.  
Vandemore Funeral Home  
Geneseo, IL

Officiant  
Reverend Mark Graham

In lieu of flowers, a memorial  
fund has been created at the

Richmond Hill Theater  
Po Box 181  
Geneseo, IL, 61254

Donations can be made payable  
to Richmond Hill Players

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