

*In Memory of  
Jean Anne Lien  
December 12, 1936 – June 9, 2007*



*In honor of Jean Lien we will establish the “Jean Lien Memorial Fund” to provide educational grants to the Annual Oregon Medical Case Management Conference in Portland to graduate nurses that are interested in pursuing a career in case management*

*Donations can be made to  
Make check payable to OMCMG  
“Jean Lien Memorial Fund”  
833 SW 11th Suite 507  
Portland, OR 97205  
Tax ID # 93-107-6734*

Jean Lien has been a member of the Oregon Medical Case Management Group since the year the chapter started. She served on the Board of Directors from 2005 until her death. She frequently attended the Washington Medical Case Management Group and the Willamette Valley Care Managers Group. She had a passion for clinical education. Jean was an amazing nurse and a friend to all who worked with her. She was proud to be a RN. She loved to share all that she knew with others. She had the gift of being a patient and organized teacher. Nothing pleased her more than to help mold some of her students. She was available by phone 24 hours per day to answer any clinical or funding questions. The last 15 years of her career she worked in the field of Long Term Care. She was a Managed Care, Medicaid and a Medicare expert. She knew every managed care contract inside and out. We all wish we would have paid better attention when she was here with us. She understood the rules of each health plan and helped devise the best possible care plan for all of her patients based on the guidelines of those payers. She taught all those that she worked with how to provide the highest quality of care for the frail and elderly. She loved working with every staff member. She treated everyone with great respect. You knew you had to do your job correctly when Jean was around. She was a no-nonsense leader. She worked until the week

she died. Her passion never wavered. She loved what she did and she did it better than anyone.

Work was a very important part of Jean's life. She resumed her nursing career as an RN at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, NY when Doug started kindergarten. After the family moved to Oregon, Jean was initially employed at Portland's Good Samaritan Hospital. She moved across the river to Emanuel Hospital in 1974, where she stayed until 1989. During the late 1970's, Jean met former President Ford at Emanuel when he helped dedicate a new wing of the hospital (no, he didn't trip). She also continued her education, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (cum laude) from Linfield College in 1987. Jean worked her way up the nursing management ladder at Emanuel, and for a short period of time was the VP of nursing. From the 1990s onward, she worked in the rehabilitation field. She was still employed at the time of her death with Prestige Health Care, and talked about coming back to work even in the final stages of her illness. She enjoyed her work and was proud of her accomplishments, and made many friends throughout her career.

She was born Jean Anne Leslie in Brooklyn, New York on December 12, 1936. She was the only child of Eugene and Aagot Leslie. She was raised in a large extended household that included her grandparents, who were Norwegian immigrants. She often spoke fondly of her maternal grandfather, a longshoreman. Her mother was also born in Norway, so Norwegian culture was an important part of Jean's childhood, and it remained important to her throughout her life. As child she once performed in a piano recital at Carnegie Hall. Jean was also a true-blue Brooklyn Dodger fan, and saw numerous games at Ebbets Field, the Dodgers' home park. Tickets for box seats were \$1.50. Her favorite player was first baseman Gil Hodges.

Jean graduated from Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn, NY in 1954. Upon graduation, she enrolled in nursing school at Long Island College Hospital, and graduated in 1957. While in nursing school, she shared a room with Ingrid Lien, a longtime friend who also became her sister-in-law. Their room featured a piece of tape (added by Ingrid) which divided the room; Ingrid was very neat, while Jean was, well, not. During nursing school, Jean took care of Brooklyn Dodger Sandy Amoros while he was at the hospital; this was memorialized in a photo in a local newspaper, and Jean kept the clipping.

On July 27, 1957, she married Robert Norman Lien, whom she had been dating since she was 16, at Zion Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY. After a honeymoon in Connecticut and Niagara Falls, they returned to Brooklyn. Their first child, Elizabeth, was born in Brooklyn in 1958. Shortly thereafter, they moved to upstate New York and engaged in dairy farming in Morris, NY. In 1961, their second child, Robert, was born in Oneonta, NY; in 1963, their third child, Douglas, was born in Cooperstown, NY. Jean often mentioned that Doug's birth would have been free if he had been born on Norwegian Constitution Day (May 17), since Jean's physician was also Norwegian; unfortunately, Doug refused to be cheap and was born a day too early. In later years, her other son, Bob, a big baseball fan, would complain to his mother that he would have preferred to have been born in Cooperstown (home of the Baseball Hall of Fame). In 1964, the family moved to Richfield Springs, NY where Robert bought a dairy farm in partnership with his brother Thor.

In August 1973, the Lien brothers sold the farm, and Robert and Jean moved to Oregon. Jean drove the family car, with two kids and two cats, while her husband drove a U-Haul with the other child. They first lived in SE Portland, and then moved to her current home in Gresham in 1974. Jean was the sole breadwinner for awhile while Robert went to school to receive training as a Refrigeration Mechanic. They also joined the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church in 1973. Jean was a very active member in the church; she sang in the choir for many years and served on the Church Council. Music was very important to Jean, and was an important part of the household while the children were growing up. She loved Handel's Messiah; so much so, that is basically was playing from Thanksgiving to Christmas, loudly. Jean and Robert spent the next number of years raising their children. After the kids left home, Jean and Robert quickly adapted to empty-nester life. They traveled, cultivated an interest in fine wine,

and enjoyed going out dancing with friends.

Jean also loved to travel. She and the family took many cross-country trips by car when the children were young. They would typically travel close to 10,000 miles on these three-week trips. The family also visited Hawaii twice in the late 1970s. Once the children were older, Jean and Robert really took to the air, visiting England and Norway in 1985, Italy in 2000, and Greece in 2001 (with son Douglas, his wife Dena, and their family). In 2003, Jean took a trip to Norway with her daughter, Elizabeth, where they engaged in retail therapy, saw one very dead reindeer, and visited a few relatives along the way. They also took annual trips to Mazatlan, Mexico starting in the mid-1980s. Jean also took a very special trip to Norway last fall with her niece, Lisa DeVogel.

On December 23, 2002, Robert, her husband of 45 years, passed away, which devastated Jean. She tried retirement for a short period of time, but it didn't suit her; so she went back to work.

Jean was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer in September 2004. She endured a number of treatments, and was always looking for a new treatment when one stopped working. She also continued to work as much as she possibly could, as she continued to receive great satisfaction from her work.

Jean touched everyone who came in contact with her. In her last days in the hospital, she received a steady parade of visitors, who obviously loved her very much. She will be greatly missed and was taken from us too soon.