

Pacifica's great champion Jean Headley (1946-2022)

By Jean Bartlett (www.bartlettbiographies.com)

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(A Pacifica Historical Society Project)

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Jean Headley Darmody fell in love with Pacifica, California, the first time she drove through it in the 1970s. Someday, she promised herself, she was going to live there. At the time she was living in Southern California. Originally from Ohio, she moved to Los Angeles not long after high school. It was where her dad had moved after he and her mom divorced.

"When Jean and her two older siblings were growing up, they used to say, 'When I grow up, I am going to California,'" her husband Daniel Darmody said. "And that's exactly what each of them did. Her brother Jim moved to California not long after their parents split up. Next came Judy and then came Jean. The youngest of the four siblings, John, has always lived in Ohio."

Jean lived in Southern California from 1965 through 1976 – but she found her best life in Pacifica.



Born in Youngstown, OH, on September 18, 1946, Jean Headley was the daughter of William Edward Headley and Helen Louise (Camm) Headley. Her father was from Wheeling, West Virginia and her mom was from Youngstown.

Like her mom, Jean attended South High School in Youngstown. Graduating in 1964, Jean served on her yearbook's Ad Staff throughout her high school years and was a member of her senior year's Picnic Committee. Additionally, in her senior year, she was a member of O.S.E. That stood for Order of Secretarial Efficiency and as a school group, it was new that year. Its purpose was "the development of better secretaries," and all members were required, at a minimum, to have a B- average in shorthand, typing, bookkeeping and English. It is not hyperbole to suggest that Jean's GPA hit the 4.0 mark.

←Jean, 1964, O.S.E. Club photo.

Once she moved to the Los Angeles area, Jean immediately found work as a secretary and during the 11 years she lived there, she worked for McDonnell Douglas, Mobil Oil and ARCO.

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"For extra money, Jean worked as a bartender/go-go dancer at a go-go bar," Daniel said. "When she was working as a bartender, if somebody paid some money for her to dance, she would get up on the bar and dance. She had a go-go outfit – a bikini with fringe all over it. She made good money, not even counting the tips, and she enjoyed the job. She was an entrepreneur, and like so many of us in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including me, she loved to party."

"She got pregnant in Los Angeles," Daniel went on to say. "It was someone she had been dating. It wasn't a serious relationship and she did not tell him she was pregnant. She did tell her family and her family did not want anyone to know. She was put in a nunnery, somewhere in Los Angeles. She wanted to keep her baby but her family insisted she put him up for adoption. They told her, 'Don't worry, you'll have other children,' which never did happen."

"The nuns were very kind to her but that did not make it any less hard. When her son was born, they took him from her right away. She bonded with him in her heart but she didn't get to bond with him physically. She was always looking for him from that point forward. And the funny thing was—though she did not know this at the time—he lived right by her in Long Beach. She used to walk by this park, in Long Beach, and she would see kids playing and wonder if one of them was her son. Sure enough, we found out later, that was where her son played because he lived just a couple of blocks from there. But at that time, she had to get on with her life, she had to move on. But she was never the same."

When a former boyfriend moved to Pacifica, Jean headed north to visit him, revisiting the promise she had once made to herself.

"I thought about that earlier time I drove along the Coast Highway through Pacifica," Jean told me during an interview I did with her and Daniel, for the *Pacifica Tribune*, in 2009. "And I remembered how I thought back then, what a beautiful little town. How lucky people are to live here."

Jean moved to Pacifica and in with her boyfriend. In 1977, they bought a house on Linda Mar Boulevard. The relationship didn't last long, but she bought him out and that remained her home until her death in April of 2022. Her beloved husband Daniel still lives there, along with the couple's very-loved cats, sisters Tiny and Tina.



"People don't always think of cats as emotional support animals," Daniel smiled, "but they really are and they've sure stuck with me since Jean's death."

← In a typical evening at home, Tiny and Tina lounge like professionals on Jean's legs, circa 2020.

Beginning in 1979, Jean went to work for the City of Pacifica as a legal secretary. She additionally recorded the minutes for the respective monthly meetings of the fire, police and water district departments. In 1979, she also started Headley Office Services.

"Jean started her own business, while she was working for the City, because she wanted the extra money and she planned from the start to eventually branch out on her own," Daniel noted.

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The owner-operator of Headley Office Services—a home-based secretarial service for people without a regular secretary—provided: typing, Notary Public services, résumés, process serving, bookkeeping and office tending. She was well-known locally and her accuracy, efficiency and reliability brought her a plethora of devoted clients over the decades. Her marketing handle was "Clean Jean, the Typing Queen."

In 1983, Jean served on the City Council-appointed task force to promote commercial development in Pacifica. She served on the committee with then Councilmembers Ginny Jaquith and Peter Loeb. Later, the three task force members would be joined by the late Al Malick.

In 2015, I interviewed Jean a second time for the *Pacifica Tribune*. This time it was for her work on that committee which led to Jean, Ginny and Peter being crowned as the 2015 Discover Pacifica Parade Grand Marshals at the 30th Pacific Coast Fog Fest weekend.

"In 1983, the meeting's moderator asked, 'What are some of the problems you see in Pacifica?'" Jean recalled. "I stood up and pointed out my 'I Love Pacifica' button. I told them I wore that button every day and when I went to San Francisco, people asked me why I loved Pacifica when it was so foggy."

From that comment it was recognized that Pacifica had a public image problem and among other committees, the Public Image Committee was established. The three people on that committee were Jean, Ginny and Peter. They discussed how the pumpkins in Half Moon Bay had created an annual festival, and garlic in Gilroy paved the way for a yearly celebration. Why not fog?

"From this committee of three, with lots and lots of help from others," Jean noted, "the Pacific Coast Fog Fest began."



September 26, 2015, the Discover Pacifica Parade Grand Marshals—Peter Loeb, Jean Headley and Ginny Jaquith—get ready for their Pacific Coast Fog Fest ride.

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"Ginny and Peter and I have been friends for years now," Jean went on to say in 2015. "And I just love them. They are wonderful people and I think of them as my mentors and they both stayed on the Fog Fest Committee longer than I did."

Jean wore her "I Love Pacifica" pin every day, for 30 plus years. She made it clear to everyone that if anyone ever caught her out without her pin, she would pay them \$10. She never paid a dime.

"For me, this pin will always be the seed from which the Pacific Coast Fog Fest began," Jean said. "For me it's a point of pride."

* * *

How did Jean and Daniel meet? "Through her business, of course," Daniel laughed.

"It was in 1989 and Jean was still working for the City. But her business was really going and a mutual friend, Melissa Atchinson Brazis, was helping Jean with a mailing project that needed additional help. Melissa asked if I was interested. I was unemployed at the time and readily took the work. I went over to Jean's house and Jean and I sat at the table and got stoned," Daniel laughed again, "and of course worked!"

Daniel did a few more jobs for Jean.

"This is before Jean and I started dating," he continued. "But each time I worked for Jean, I went over to her house and her cats were all over me, and one cat was especially all over me and his name was Primo. Jean couldn't believe it. She told me Primo never sat on anyone."

When Jean decided to make the solo work leap into just her own business, Daniel went to her City retirement party at the Vallemar Station. He hadn't planned on going, but Melissa gave him a sturdy nudge. He had a fabulous time. Still just friends, Jean and Daniel decided to attend the annual Halloween party of a couple they both knew, together.

"It was almost a date. I went as a werewolf. Jean didn't have a costume and she got a t-shirt and put blood all over it and wrote 'victim' on it. She decided to go as my victim! This is right after the Loma Prieta earthquake (October 17, 1989), so everyone thought she was a victim of the earthquake. But then we really did start dating – though it was slow-going at first. I didn't have any money and I didn't have money to take her out. We went once to a movie, and then two weeks later I asked her out again."

Melissa told Jean to be patient with Daniel regarding the time between calls. She quoted lyrics from the British-American rock band, America. "I've been one poor correspondent, and I've been too, too hard to find, but it doesn't mean you ain't been on my mind."

"Once the facts came out, Jean and I started going out on a regular basis,"

Who is Daniel?

A graduate of San Francisco State University with a degree in industrial and organizational psychology, Daniel was born in Los Angeles and grew up in a number of places. His dad was an instrument specialist and ran major job sites all over the world. As a kid, the longest Daniel lived anywhere was four years in Santa Clara, CA. There he attended 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade. He went to six high schools, three of them were different high schools in Texas his freshman year. His last year and a half in high school was spent

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in Greece, the one place he would choose to live if he were to live anywhere else but Pacifica. He also lived in Saudi Arabia.

Many Pacificans know Daniel from his business Windshield Wizard which he recently retired from. His business provided mobile windshield repair, glass scratch removal, striping, body molding, auto graphics and hubcaps. He also did signage, business names on company cars.

Daniel spoke of the couple's earliest years.

"Jean was having her house remodeled and she needed to stay elsewhere. I was renting a condominium on Oddstad, so she stayed with me for a few weeks. When the work was completed on her house, I moved in with her. I never left."

Christmas of 1992, Daniel proposed.

"I had put a ring in a box on the tree. After we opened all of our presents I told her there was one more, if she could find it. She did find it. She was thrilled and she said, 'yes.'"

The couple married on October 9, 1993, at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. They married outside, under the gazebo. Dinner after, with their best man and maid of honor, was at a Japanese restaurant.

"Jean had never had Japanese food and she saw this big green thing on her plate, wasabi (Japanese horseradish), and thought it was avocado. She put the whole thing in her mouth and we all screamed, 'Noooooo!' Too late, she was exploding with fire! Maybe that's why she always thought Japanese food was so-so, though I love it. She did love the dragon rolls at my favorite Japanese restaurant in Pacifica, Go Sushi in Eureka Square. Her thing was Chinese food and her favorite restaurant was Raymond's Chinese Cuisine on Palmetto. She used to buy a whole duck from them and so many other things. And as anyone who knew Jean knows, she loved Pacifica and would be thrilled to be plugging these businesses!"



Daniel and Jean married on October 9, 1993, at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

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"There were so many things about Jean, that were just her, and I loved them all," her husband said. "I love cats and when I moved in with Jean, she had eight cats. Then she got five more. Those five were all strays. That was definitely a crowd. Most of our years together, we've just had a few at a time, but with 13 there were always squabbles, and with the five that were strays, living both indoors and outdoors, we had skunks and raccoons visiting because their food was outside. But it all worked out fine."

In 2009, in the *Pacifica Tribune* under the paper's "Pet of the Week" column, Jean explained in her own words the importance of all cats in her life, through her story on one. This story, excluding Jean's direct quotes, has been edited slightly for length.

My Favorite Pet in Linda Mar

By Jean Headley Darmody

Special to the Tribune, July 29, 2009



Prima, photo by Jean Headley Darmody.

because our other cats all want to sit on "Daddy's" lap and sleep by his legs. By now, I'm REALLY loving this kitten! The next morning we opened the cat door as usual and Prima went out to play in our yard like our other cats do. Since it was Thanksgiving, you can imagine the wonderful turkey smells that permeated the house that day. And then during dinner, Prima was given bits of turkey just like our other cats. I'm sure that was when she decided, "I LOVE it here—I'm going to stay!!" Over the next few days, we put up signs and advertised that we found a kitten, but no one claimed her.

Three weeks after Prima had moved in with them, Jean and Daniel learned that Prima belonged to the neighbors directly behind them, a family of four. Prima was one of two cats in their home, sisters adopted together, and the parents had been knocking on doors all over the neighborhood to find her. Along with their two children and two cats, their family also included two dogs. Jean explained to the parents how much she loved Prima. Lovely people, they said they were okay with Prima living with Jean and Daniel, but the decision was up to their five-year-old daughter. They would call Jean 'tomorrow' with their daughter's response.

The next day was torture for me. I had a lot of work to do, but always in the forefront of my mind was the pending potential loss of my beloved Prima. I pretty much figured the little girl would want her kitten back, so I was preparing to be devastated. Finally, at 8:30 that evening, the phone rang and my

This is the story of "Prima," the cat I love more than any other pet I've ever had. The day before Thanksgiving in 2005, a cute little grey and white kitten came in through our cat door and began playing with our other cats' toys. She looked approximately 6 months old. I said, "Oh, who are you??" and she promptly jumped up on my lap and trilled a little "Hello" in kitty language. Her fur was as soft as a bunny, and she had the cutest little kitty belly. I was instantly smitten by this adorable kitten!! I promptly named her "Prima" because she looks exactly like a smaller version of a male cat I once had named Primo. Her nickname became "Prima Ballerina!" We didn't know who she belonged to and we listened all day for someone calling "Here, kitty, kitty!" but to no avail. When we closed the cat door for the night, we decided to keep her inside so the night critters (raccoons, skunks, etc.) wouldn't harm her. When we watched TV she sat on MY lap, and at night she slept by MY legs, and that's special

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husband answered. At first, hearing only one side of the conversation ("Yes, I understand" and "Oh, of course"), I thought the answer was no and that they wanted Prima back. Eventually, I realized that they were agreeing to let us keep Prima, saying that even if we gave her back, she would only come right back over here. Once I realized they were going to let us keep her, I was overcome with joy! The next day they brought us Prima's vaccination tag and papers, and she became ours forever. To this day, almost 4 years later, not a day goes by that we aren't grateful to our back yard neighbors for allowing Prima to stay with us. She fills our days with joy and is so very sweet and special. Each time she enters a room, she trills a little song to let us know she's here. She is a very special part of our family of cats, and I love her so very much."

Along with learning instantly about Jean's love of cats, Daniel also learned about her Christmastime tradition of making chocolate chip cookies, which was also very well-known and appreciated by various family members and quite a number of Pacificans.

"She delivered them all over the place. She altered the recipe, but at its base, it is the Toll House chocolate chip cookie recipe. Thankfully, I was able to help out when she had different problems over the years.

"One year they kept sticking to the cookie sheet and she was feeling overwhelmed. She said, 'I can't do this anymore. I am done!' I was in line at Costco and behind this lady who had these silicone baking sheets. I learned if you put them on your cookie sheets, the cookies slide right off. I brought them home and Jean said, 'Oh, these will work!' That resurrected the cookies that year. Another year she was tired of making so many different batches. She was going to quit that year too. So I bought her an 8-quart mixer so she could do one batch – and that saved them."

There were a few years in there when Jean decided to use margarine rather than butter. But Daniel put a stop to that. "You have to use butter, because you can taste the kick! Though it's not like you can't eat the margarine ones," Daniel grinned.

"I got all the rejects, so every Christmas I would gain five pounds. 'Here,' she'd say, 'These are broken. Eat these.' 'Okay,' I said and did! Christmas chocolate chip cookies – that was her bailiwick."



A batch of Jean's Christmas' deliveries.

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It turns out Jean loved Christmas decorations and Daniel saw to it that she had them.

"Before me, she had no decorations. I did that for her and we had a lot of decorations, inside and out. Outside I had lights in the bushes and around the house and in the windows. We had reindeer in the front yard and so many festive things. We always had a tree that the cats could sleep under.

"Jean introduced me to her favorite music, Motown, especially, and doo-wop. The Beatles were a little too modern for her. She liked the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, the Four Tops and so many more classic Motown performers. I like rock and hard rock and she learned to love it as I learned to love her music. When we went on trips in our motorhome, we loaded up the music CDs. We had a great time traveling in our RV. Mostly we went to Southern California to see family.

"Anybody who knew Jean knows that the 'Wheel of Fortune' was her television show. She watched it all the time and got all the puzzles. She tried several times to get on it. One time they were having a tryout in the Gold Country. This was pre-online contestant signups. She had to stand in a long line, for a day and a half, just to finally get into the auditorium where they picked audience names out of a container. She was the best contestant they never knew!"



Jean absolutely loved doing puzzles, 500 to 1,000 pieces. She always had one going and by golly, she finished it. Daniel also noted that he and Jean really enjoyed watching movies together. They had a favorite they must have watched 10 times, a science fiction action film starring Bruce Willis called the "The Fifth Element." Daniel also wanted to be sure to highlight her "love, Love, LOVE of the Radio City Rockettes." Perhaps her thrill with the Rockettes is that they are defined as a "precision dance company."

"I'm a Virgo," Jean laughed in her 2009 *Tribune* interview. "Everything in its place! I know how to keep everything running at once with all the balls in the air."

"We Virgos are definitely a different breed," Jean continued. "One day my husband said, "You Virgos are pretty weird and I've got to write about you!"

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True to his word, Daniel wrote and published, "How to Live with a Virgo: A Survival Guide." Jean, who typed and edited it, loved the book.

"Daniel and I get along so well because he has a lot of patience, which I need," Jean continued in her 2009 *Tribune* interview. "He's a dreamer. He's an Aquarius. He's a wonderful man, the best. When we first met I did warn him – don't expect Suzy Homemaker. But what we got from that first meeting was a lot of love and a beautiful friendship."



(Jean Bartlett photo.)

Jean and Daniel at home in Pacifica, CA, November 2009.

* * *

"From the moment we became a couple, I understood that the birth of her son and the subsequent loss of him in her life, colored everything for Jean," Daniel said. "Every year on her birthday, I would send a card from him. And every year on Mother's Day, I would also send a card. On his birthday, we would have a couple of drinks and she grieved and I listened.

"In the relatively early days of the Internet, a friend of ours, who is very computer savvy, posted Jean's information on a website where mothers looked for their adopted children. This would eventually change everything.

"It was February of 2001 and it was a Monday night. Jean and I were watching 'Boston Public' (a drama television series about a fictional public high school in Boston which focused on the private lives of the school's teachers, students and administrative staff). We were really into it. When the phone rang that night, I said, 'Just let it ring.' But she said, 'No, it might be important.' Then I heard her say, 'Is this about

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my son?' It was her son's former wife that called and after she talked to Jean, she put Jean's son, John Andrews, on the phone."

It turned out John had found Jean's information online and had written her an email. But unbeknownst to him, she had changed that email, though not her address or phone number, from when her information was originally placed on the mom website. He thought she didn't write back because she had changed her mind and didn't want to talk to him.

"When John got on that phone that very first time, he and Jean talked for hours. On Friday, we hauled down to Long Beach in our motorhome. All along the highway, Jean kept saying to me, 'You don't have to go to the bathroom! You don't have to eat! Come on, we've got to get there!' When we arrived, there were 20 people in his front yard – John, his family and a lot of friends. They had all been involved with trying to find Jean. It was instant love and instant family, and Jean and I were instantly grandparents to four grandchildren. I would say, and Jean definitely agreed, it was the happiest day of her life. Eventually John's stepbrother David would become like a second son to Jean, and Jean would be the proud grandmother of five.

"Jean had to explain to John why she put him up for adoption. So he learned, she never wanted to – that in those days, very few women had a child out of wedlock and kept that child. She told him the name of his birth father. And so John tracked him down as well and DNA testing confirmed everything. John's birth father is a motorcycle mechanic and John is really into motorcycles. He collects them and works on them. So they instantly had something in common."



Jean and her son John in 2012.

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"I think it was always destined for Jean and her son to meet," Daniel went on to say. "One of the connections that we later learned about, I believe would have eventually brought them together, even if they hadn't found each other online. That connection was through Jean's niece Carole. At that time, Carole was running a childcare service in Yucaipa, CA, in San Bernardino County. Jean phoned Carole at work and was telling Carole about John phoning her, and this little girl at the daycare overheard all this and said, 'I know John!'"

"It turns out, this little girl is the daughter of one of John's best friends and their families do stuff together all of the time. John lives in Long Beach which is 85 miles from Yucaipa. What are the odds? 'Kismet' is the word. Jean looked for John since the day they were parted, and as it turns out, John has spent a lifetime looking for Jean. To say this was and has been wonderful, hardly does anyone's feelings justice."

Meanwhile, back in Pacifica, Jean continued to work hard in the town she loved. In addition, not only was she one of the founders of the Fog Fest, but she served as its coordinator for years. She and her 1986 Mercedes-Benz 560SL were a multi-year tradition in the Discover Pacifica Parade and many of those times, Pacifica's official mermaid waved from atop of Jean's flawlessly polished navy blue ride.



In 2013, Jean added the *Pacifica Tribune* to her list of clients when she was hired as the community newspaper's proofreader. She was a meticulous and fierce proofreader, and she did not miss a deadline. She left the paper in 2019. She was devoted to that job. "She liked finding mistakes," Daniel laughed. Though frankly, Jean was devoted to all her jobs and one of her top priorities was to never let anyone down. Daniel noted there were times she chose work over health.

"The year she got her Mercedes, 1995, was the year she had heart surgery. We went to see a cardiologist and he said, 'You need a stent.' And she said, 'I don't have time.' And he and I said, 'Well, do you have time to die?' And she said, 'I didn't think about that.' So she got it done. But really, she felt obligated to keep working for her clients when she couldn't find anyone else to work for them."

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In March of 2019, Jean Headley Darmody was the recipient of the Home Based Business Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pacifica Chamber of Commerce. The event was held at Nick's Seafood Restaurant in Rockaway Beach.



A room full of admirers gave Jean a standing ovation at this Pacifica Chamber event in 2019. The award was presented by Master of Ceremonies Victor Spano, left, and longtime friend and former Pacifica mayor Peter Loeb.

When COVID-19 became a declared nationwide emergency on March 13, 2020, and when California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statewide stay-at-home order on March 19, 2020, Jean and Daniel, like everyone they knew, left their homes only when necessary, wore masks, followed social distancing measures and handwashing guidelines. In 2021, as soon as vaccinations were available, Jean and Daniel received theirs. After that, Daniel received his boosters, but Jean never did.

"She said to me, 'I just don't have time,' and I said to her exactly the same thing the cardiologist and I said to her back in 1995 when she said she didn't have time to have a heart stent placed. But she masked up and kept her distance and took care of her jobs. I worried about her. She had diabetes, she had a heart murmur, she had a-fib (Atrial fibrillation) and she was obese. She was on all kinds of medications."

Right after Christmas, Jean had two falls at home. Both times, EMTs came out and the second time, they took her to the hospital. That was on December 27, 2021.

"The hospital was packed. They couldn't find a room for her so she was in a private room in emergency. Eventually one room freed up and that was in the ICU. They told us they weren't giving her the room because they thought she was going to have problems – it was just their only room available. The next day, they tested her for COVID and she had it.

"By then, she couldn't breathe and they had to intubate her. She was intubated for five weeks. The doctor would say to me, 'It doesn't look good. I don't think she's going to make it.' I was scared every day. I reported everything to the family. I couldn't visit her. Finally, towards the latter part of her being intubated, they let me talk to her on the phone. All our family and friends were praying for her—it was a

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huge prayer circle—they prayed for me too, and it worked. The doctor didn't think she was going to make it when he took her off the ventilator, but she did. The doctor was impressed. She was a fighter.

"When she opened her eyes, I told her she had been under for five weeks. 'No!' she said. 'We just came in yesterday.' She had some memory of me talking to her on the phone, so I want to share that that is a good thing to do. She began the process of physical therapy. She was learning how to walk again. She immediately got back into her puzzles. They had a recreation room and she set one up. When she came back the next day somebody had worked on it which really annoyed her. Her personality was right there. She wanted to know about the bills. She always took care of them. When she woke up, she was herself.

"She was sent to a rehab facility in Daly City, which she hated. She thought it was horrible. We talked to Linda Mar Rehabilitation on San Pedro Terrace Rd. and she got in. When she was taken there by ambulance, she went right by our house. She could see it through the window. Of course she wanted to see the cats. I tried holding them up on a video call but they wouldn't sit still! She thought she was going to come home and I thought she was going to come home. We all thought that. She went to Linda Mar Rehab on Friday and on Monday she was back in the hospital. She had congestive heart failure. She realized that wasn't good, but she was still fighting. She saw the X-rays of her heart and lungs. Her lungs were filling up with fluid and her heart had grown three sizes during her illness. She did all the bargaining. 'Can you drain my lungs? Can I get a new heart?' She was told she could be intubated again but the results wouldn't be much different. Her other choice was they could take her off everything and she would pass peacefully. She chose the latter and because she had done all the bargaining, and because she had done all the fighting, she really was at peace.

"While she could, she phoned family and friends. Her son and she had a wonderful visit the day before she died. We had family on a conference call, her last day, and she and I held hands as she passed on April 24, 2022, knowing we were all here for her.

"She was a loving woman. She loved her family. She loved her sons. She loved her grandchildren. She loved her niece Carole, Jim's daughter. Carole was like a daughter to her and is to me as well. She loved all of her nieces and her nephew. She loved her siblings. She loved her friends. She loved her cats! She loved me and I loved her. She changed my life and I changed hers. We were both in need of something and we found the answer to that need in each other. We had a good time together. We understood each other. We knew each other's secrets, our down sides and our up sides. She was a very honest person and I am a brutally honest person, and we accepted that. It was a real marriage and we were both of the mind that we were never going to get divorced. Even if we had a huge fight, we would always make up. Our policy was never go to bed mad and we stuck to it."

"She was someone who made her mark in this town. She was known for the Fog Fest. She was known for her cookies. She was instrumental in undergrounding the wiring on Linda Mar Blvd. She did fundraisers for local causes. She was well-known to City Council. If she thought a cause in this town needed fighting for, she fought for it. She and I had so many laughs. I do so miss her but when I think of these things that she found, the first two being things I don't think she ever thought she would find, it does make me smile. She found true love with me. She found her son and they had a real and loving relationship. Finally, she found in Pacifica, her town, her forever home. I'd say she did pretty well in this life."

* * *

The second to last page in this Jean Headley Darmody biography, which follows, offers an image of Jean and her siblings, as well as a photo of Jean and a few of her Pacifica friends. The very final page is devoted to Jean's more famous pearls of wisdom. I knew Jean, definitely called her "friend," and to not include these axioms would undoubtedly send a bolt to these pages, straight from heaven!

Pacifica's great champion Jean Headley (1946-2022)

By Jean Bartlett (www.bartlettbiographies.com)

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The Headley siblings with their mom, left to right: Judy Headley Younger, Jim Headley, Helen Louise (Camm) Headley, Jean Headley Darmody and John Headley.



(Carol Camacho photo.)

On September 18, 2013, Jean celebrated her 35th year in business with a sampling of her Pacifica community of friends.

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The following lists the top Jean Headley' phrases.

- *If you have time to do it over, you have time to do it right the first time.*
- *A place for everything and everything in its place.*
- *I can live with anything for a while, and some "whiles" are longer than others.*
- *If the dream is big enough, the way will present itself.*
- *If you wait too long, things go wrong.*
- *Never envy youth; so few of its troubles are behind it.*



Jean Headley Darmody, 1946-2022. A favorite photo, this was taken on the way to meet her son John for the very first time.



Jean Bartlett is a longtime Bay Area features writer: Pacifica Tribune, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury, San Mateo Times, Portraits & Roots, Marin Independent Journal, Twin City Times, Ross Valley Reporter, Peninsula Progress, Coastal Connections, Contra Costa County Times, Bay Area Business Woman and Catholic San Francisco. She is also a former Hallmark Card writer, a produced playwright and a published author.

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