

*Grace Steiner*

*Dec. 28, 1916 - Dec. 10, 2003*



*Family and friends will remember Grace Steiner as a devoted mother, gracious hostess, peace activist, community volunteer and someone who took time to help others less fortunate. In the words of one friend, she lived life with "dignity, grace and charm".*

*Born in Methuen, MA, daughter of Marion and Habib Otash, Grace was one of 6 children. She joined the Army after graduating from St. John's Hospital School of Nursing in Lowell, MA. As a 2nd Lieutenant, she traveled the seas aboard an Army ship. When WWII ended, she and her nurse friends put in for a transfer to California. There, at Lettermen's General Hospital in San Francisco, she cared for a patient, Captain H.W. Steiner. They married in 1946, moved to Los Angeles and started their family.*

*The family relocated to Orange County in 1950. Grace continued as an RN at St. Joseph's Hospital in Orange while raising Bill, Lila and Carl. Later, in 1974, she traveled as a nurse aboard the Chapman College Campus Afloat and visited China, Japan and Taiwan. An avid traveler, Grace spent time in Mexico studying Spanish, took several trips to Canada, met up with relatives in Lebanon, Europe and Japan, and traveled on Elderhostel.*

*Not content with her role exclusively as a homemaker and not the typical grandma, Grace found purpose and meaning in her life beyond her family. While she set a solid example for her children and grandchildren and was very influential in their lives, she was also committed to ideals of justice and peace which became her focus after raising a family. She traveled to Washington D.C. to participate in rallies and national association meetings.*

*An active member of her community, she volunteered time to her church, the PTA, Legal Aid Society, YWCA, and Lawyer's Wives. Later, she took blood pressures at a Senior Center and initiated Spanish classes for the community as a member of UCI's Town and Gown. For many years, she enjoyed cooking authentic Lebanese food for the annual YWCA All Nations Festival. Ethnic cuisine was one of Grace's talents and many enjoyed the fruits of her passion in the kitchen. In fact, a Christmas tradition for Grace was sending her children out in elf's hats to deliver loaves of her famous nut bread for neighbors.*

*A woman of diverse interests, Grace entered cooking contests (and won!), collected antiques, enjoyed poetry, entertained friends at home and loved her garden. Grace had a green thumb when it came to roses, another one of her passions. Her favorite was "Double Delight".*

*Grace almost always had a letter in her typewriter. She regularly mailed and faxed letters to the President and to her legislators on issues of concern. She felt deeply about the rights of women, farmworkers and veterans. As a peace advocate, she took to the streets, marching with both Veterans For Peace and NOW.*

*One of Grace's proudest achievements was initiating legislation to restore pensions for widows and divorcees of retired California judges. With the passage of SB 857 in 2000, the work she began in 1998 came to a successful conclusion. Thirty nine spouses now enjoy full pensions, thanks to Grace's tireless work in identifying a legislator to author the bill, enlisting influential support and lobbying for its passage.*

*As friends have said, our mother was an inspiration to all who knew her.*