

## IN MEMORIAM



**Jean as FWC President,  
1987-1988.**



**Jean working on the FWC  
Update in March 2006.**

### JEAN SERAFETINIDES

March 19, 1930 – June 18, 2011

It is with great sadness that we learned that **Jean Serafetinides** passed away on Saturday, June 18, 2011, in Pacific Palisades. Born March 19, 1930, to Ralph and Nellie Rawlinson, Jean was raised in the North of England (Bradford, West Riding of Yorkshire) bounded to the north by Brontë country and to the south by D.H. Lawrence country. She trained in London as a teacher and after teaching underprivileged children in South London, then Physically Handicapped children in the North of England, spent five years as head teacher and director of an innovative day center for Cerebral Palsied Children in Kent (a stone's throw from Darwin's Down House). During this time, she met her husband Eustace "Stathis" A. Serafetinides, a doctor from Greece, then completing his DPM (the UK Boards) at the Maudsley Hospital and his Ph.D. at London University. They married in 1965 and came to the United States, arriving in time for Thanksgiving! Their first stop was in Oklahoma City where, in addition to being a "faculty wife," Jean completed her M.ED (Psychology) and worked as a consultant to the Head Start Program in Oklahoma County.

Jean and her husband came to California in 1971 when Dr. Serafetinides joined the faculty at UCLA as a Professor of Psychiatry. Jean opted to try her hand at writing. In 1974, using her pen name, Jean Rawlinson, she began a collaboration with Irina Nijinska on the editing and translating of *Bronislava Nijinska: Early Memoirs* which was published by Holt, Rinehart & Winston in 1981 to critical acclaim. It was listed as a Book of the Year by the American Library Association and by the *New York Times*.

After Jean was diagnosed in 1981 with Multiple Sclerosis, she became an advocate for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She trained as a peer counselor in 1984 and served as the volunteer Government Issues Coordinator for the Southern California Chapter. She took part in two NMSS Advocacy Conferences in Washington and two MS-CAN meetings in Sacramento. She

worked tirelessly as a political activist on MS related activities, meeting with government representatives both in Washington and locally.

Jean was a member of PEN, the world's oldest literary and human rights organization, a disabled women writers group, and the UCLA Faculty Women's Club Writers Section. In her spare time, she wrote short stories and worked on a biographical novel concerning an English doctor, a friend of Charles Dickens and Hans Christian Andersen and contemporary of William Thackeray and John Ruskin, who gave up his practice to become a travel writer, a contributor to "Punch," a playwright, and an entertainer.

Jean was a beloved member of the UCLA Faculty Women's Club (FWC), serving as its 65<sup>th</sup> President from 1987-1988. For many years, she co-edited and published the *FWC UPDATE*, which keeps the membership informed of the Club's activities. Jean was one of the members of the Computer Section who sought in 1999 to create an independent website for FWC and helped launch it in late 1999. In addition to the Writers and Computer Sections, Jean was an active member of Genealogy and other FWC Sections through the years.

Jean was proud of FWC and the important role it played in helping UCLA transform in 1918 from a two year Normal School into a four year State University in Los Angeles, the Southern Branch of the University of California. She worked diligently for many, many years researching FWC history in the UCLA archives and was in the process of writing an e-book history to be posted on the FWC website. She finished most of the first decade (1918-1929) and was well into the second decade. Jean was also proud of FWC's tradition of distinguishing itself by bringing faculty and faculty spouses together from every discipline on the UCLA campus for educational and social events as well as providing scholarships for UCLA students since the 1920s.

Jean always played an active roll in FWC. And those who had the opportunity of working with her—and there were many--always enjoyed her insights and expertise. The challenges of her MS never held her back and she never complained. She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.

Jean is survived by her loving husband Dr. Eustace A. Serafetinides, her sister-in-law Vitheem Efthimiadou, niece-in-law Dr. Jagoda Pasic and nephew Nicholas Efthimiadis of Seattle, her brother David Rawlinson of England, and many other relatives in the US, England, Australia and Greece. She also leaves behind her devoted attendants Belinda Bates and Sabrina Jackson, and her office assistant Sarah Berges.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that you consider making a donation to the UCLA Faculty Women's Club. Please make checks payable to **The UCLA Foundation** and mail to The UCLA Foundation, P.O. Box 7145, Pasadena, CA 91109-9903. Indicate on the check that the donation is for *FWC Scholarship Fund #9017* in memory of Jean Serafetinides. For your convenience, an FWC Scholarship Donation Form may be downloaded at <http://uclafwc.bol.ucla.edu/scholarship/Scholarship%20Donation%20Form.pdf>.

A celebration of Jean's life will be held on Sunday, October 23, 2011, in the afternoon.

*Please contact Virginia Shabaik of FWC at [Vshabaik@aol.com](mailto:Vshabaik@aol.com) (818-906-9744) if you wish to be notified of the details of the memorial service for Jean and to RSVP. Members of FWC will be notified by e-mail.*