

# In Loving Memory



***Margaret Arlene Kepler Burns***

***October 6<sup>th</sup> 1917 – March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2011***



*Margaret Arlene Kepler Burns*

*October 6, 1917– March 3, 2011*

***Celebration of Life***

*955 Dana Ave, San José*

*Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2011 between 2 and 4 PM*

*Neighbors, friends and family gather to celebrate Margaret's life and share memories at an informal reception hosted by Robin Burns, Patricia and Mike Fast, Kathryn and Fred Penfold and Margaret's caregiver Tuifua.*



# Obituary

*Margaret passed away peacefully on March 3, at home.*

*Born in 1917, in Delta, Colorado, she lived there with her parents Ernest and Ruth Kepler and sister Evelyn. She studied commerce at Denver University, transferring to University of Alabama with the Sigma Kappa sorority there. While a student, she was in a beauty contest judged by Tyrone Power. At university she met Walter Burns of New Jersey. They married in Farmington, Connecticut, in 1940.*

*Their first daughter, Patricia, was born in 1943 in California, while Walter was at war. Margaret returned to Delta to live with her parents, where her first son, Robert, was born and died in infancy. The family moved to Newton Centre, Massachusetts, where Kathryn was born in 1949. Returning to California in the 1950s, Margaret helped her husband found two small businesses. They settled in Playa del Rey, where Robin was born in 1957.*

*After her separation from Walter, Margaret found her life's work with the County of Los Angeles, helping to find foster homes for abused and abandoned children. She carried on this work for 23 years until her retirement in 1985.*

*Margaret moved to Harbor City in 1966. In 2001, she moved to San Jose to be with her family.*

*She seldom mentioned achievements, such as hosting a radio show for Welcome Wagon and starting the first school lunch program in Delta, or adventures, such as flying in a small plane piloted by an ex-con, to join her parents and her daughters during a Colorado vacation. An avid gardener and swimmer, she did crosswords into her mid-eighties.*

*She loved travel and particularly enjoyed visiting family and friends in Colorado and New Jersey, as well as going further afield to Scotland, Wales, England and Ireland. A great hostess, Margaret enjoyed socializing and, on occasion, shared her home with nieces, nephews and her sister Evelyn.*

*A warm and caring mother, she is survived by her son Robin, daughters, Dr. Patricia Fast and her husband Michael of San Jose and New York, and Kathryn Penfold and her husband Fred of Lasswade, Scotland, her grandson Ted Byfield, his partner Gwen, and great-granddaughter, Myriel, of New York, two step-granddaughters, Amanita Hart of Las Vegas and Laura Fast of Denver, and their spouses, Roy and Trela, and children, Xerenity and Sage.*