

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY, JANE!

Petite, pretty and always positive, **Jane Blissett**, an AAUW-MH member for more than 20 years, will celebrate her 80th birthday this September. A recent Educational Foundation honoree, Jane has been an active participant in branch affairs, holding the offices of Program VP (twice), By-Laws Chair, Hospitality Committee and EF chair.



Jane leads the team at the 4th of July Parade

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Jane moved, at age two, with her family to a Chinese government compound south of Shanghai. Her father, a physician for the Civil Aviation Administration, was sent to China to examine flight candidates for a 2 year period.

Her college years were spent in the Los Angeles area; her UCLA degree is in apparel merchandising. She later completed course requirements and practice teaching at San Jose State University. Hired to teach in a country school outside Gilroy, her first class was comprised of forty students, one-third of whom didn't speak English, instead of the expected twenty-six kids per classroom. The less than ideal assignment for a brand new teacher didn't faze Jane.

Later qualifying as a Miller-Unruh teacher to instruct at-risk children in reading, she spent seventeen years as a reading specialist. Every so often, Jane missed the classroom and requested a teaching position at the elementary level. She returned to the reading specialty in a bilingual situation, spending 27 years as a public school teacher. Jane volunteers at the Learning and Loving Center in Morgan Hill, where she teaches and encourages immigrant women to improve their English reading and writing skills.

Her first marriage ended after 24 years. Jane lost her second husband eleven years ago. He was a friend, lover, companion and spouse for 15 years - the love of her life.

Her dancing experience for 10 years with the Flappers, a nationally known group, honed the choreography skills so apparent in the branch's recent Fourth of July Parade. Gifted also with a lovely voice, Jane is a member of her church choir.

Jane is a new volunteer at Villa Mira Monte. Her astonishing energy plus her great capacity for doing good makes Jane a role model for the rest of us. She finds time to visit her two sons, six stepchildren, four grandchildren, and 21 step-grandchildren. She recently took an Alaskan cruise with a son and granddaughter.



"How blessed I am."
- Jane Blissett

Peggy Thompson