

SPiRiT of BAINBRIDGE

The Extraordinary Jeanne Henry

By Ross Henry

Meet a lady who gives so much and does not expect much in return except the good feelings of her deeds. This person is a Good Samaritan, mother of six, grandmother of 11, an athlete, a best friend, and a much appreciated supporter. Who is this? Bainbridge's own, Jeanne Fisher Henry.

Jeanne Fisher was born in 1930 grew up in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York, with a brother and sister, Jack and Barbara. She attended Hiram College to become an elementary teacher. While there she met a man, also named Gene, who was studying law. The two fell in love and were married in 1952. Growing up she faced many challenges, including discrimination as some schools would not hire her because of her sex. The Great Depression was also a struggle as their family suffered. She remembers her dad would sell candy door to door to meet their needs. Also she recalls WWII; the war took its toll on everybody including her.

Jeanne currently lives in Lake Lucerne where she successfully raised six children: Dodie, Jim, Chip, Pat, Dan and Polly. Raising her children was an adventure, she says. They went on a lot of road trips: Utah, Canada, Georgia, and several states in the west. Their children are very successful with service occupations: educators and lawyers. Most of her children, raised in the Bainbridge/Auburn community have raised their children in the same community and attend Kenston Schools. Jeanne also worked at Kenston in the former Kenston Intermediate School.

Even in retirement, Jeanne has accomplished very much. Currently she is a member of the Cleveland Hiking Club. She tries to hike five days a week. Those hikes can range from three to ten miles each. She was just recently awarded her 11,000 mile hiking award in the club. This past summer she went hiking in the mountains of



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Colorado. With her club, she hiked the whole Buckeye Trail, which is a hike around Ohio and is around 1,444 miles long! Two weeks prior to her Colorado trip she accompanied her son, Jim's family and hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail. On their first day they hiked the Priest Mountain in Virginia, one of the toughest mountains on the whole



Ross Henry writes: This is my grandma on her birthday, left, this past September and the other (above) is of her hiking on the Appalachian Trail with her son Jim (my dad) this summer

Apart from hiking she is involved in a variety of programs. She is part of the Western Reserve Hospice program where she visits terminally ill people every Friday. She is also part of the "Friend to Friend" program where she visits a person in prison. These are inmates close to completing their time who are in need of company. She has visited her "captive friend" every other week now for a couple of years. The current person that she had been visiting was just released, and Jeanne went on a shopping trip with her and let her buy things she wanted and needed. They plan to visit each other on the weekend.

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In addition to all of her various clubs and people she meets with she is also a great family person. Jeanne will send her college grandkids care packages that are made up of homemade cookies and other goodies. She is sometimes called the Sunshine Lady by her friends because she remembers everybody's birthday and always sends them a card, balloon, and stick of gum. Jeanne also supports her grandchildren in their sports - cross country, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, and any other sport they choose to play. Jeanne will also donate practically all her time and talents when out- of- town family come in from afar. She just wants to do what other people are doing.

If you ever want to see her, call first. Her upcoming visits next month are to her daughter, Polly, in Florida and then all the way up to Alaska to visit sons, Pat and Dan.

Ross Henry, a student at Kenston Middle School, is the grandson of Jeanne Henry.

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