



## Florence Stone

July 20, 1927 - April 20, 2009

Florence Moreci Stone, 81, was born to Peter J. Moreci and Florence Lauricella Moreci in 1927 in their hometown of San Francisco. She was a third generation Californian, living in the city's Sunset District. Her first job was an after-school job for the railroad during World War II. She attended secretarial college and took part in the rash of employment opportunities the war provided in San Francisco. She always talked about the patriotic feeling in San Francisco during this golden age.

After the war, at her workplace, Florence met E. "Al" Stone. They were married on April 26, 1952. They moved to the Bay Area suburbs to raise their son, Jack, and their daughter, Mary.

Her favorite "decades to live through," she said, were the 1960s in the Santa Clara Valley and the 1970s in their new home in Corvallis. Though she was sorry to leave her extended family in her home state when new industries and population expanded there, Florence found Corvallis to be "full of trees" and new arts and crafts for her to learn.

In 1967, Al asked her to co-own and work with him in Corvallis' Christian Supply Store. Always good people of business, the two enjoyed the next 13 years building up their bookstore. West Coast publishing was expanding and diversifying in ways that this university town could grow with. The Stones got to know many mid-valley churches and church goers during these decades when Americans seemed happy to discuss the big questions; looking for answers academically, socially and spiritually.

Outside the bookstore, Florence's favorite activities were working with her friends through their churches and hosting college groups and adult classes there. A founding member of Northwest Hills Church in 1969, she and Al, in their senior years, enjoyed the warmth of another "young families church" — Corvallis Evangelical.

Her retirement years were spent pursuing domestic arts that she taught to her children, including bread-baking and preserving fruit from Corvallis farmers. She taught her grandchildren by devising projects of sewing, arts and gardening. She sewed clothes, even for her three great-grandchildren. Only the last three years of her life were spent in ill health. Over the weekend, she peacefully passed away to eternal life, with her family and pastors around her.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Jack, some years ago. She is survived by her loving husband, Al; her sister, Gloria Williams, of Morgan Hill, Calif; and her sister-in-law, Grace Moreci, of Millbrae, Calif. She had many nephews and nieces, especially in California and Oregon, whom she loved and felt close to.

Her son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Mary Stone, live in Corvallis. Their two children, Peter Stone of Seaside and Anna and Ryan Smith of Tigard, along with their children, Samuel, Claire and Lilah — Florence's three great-grandchildren — were each very dear to her.

Likewise, her daughter and son-in-law, Mary Stone Moursund and Andrew Moursund, are also of Corvallis, along with their three children, James, Henry and Elizabeth.

A celebration of Florence's life will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 24, at Corvallis Evangelical Church, 1525 N.W. Kings Blvd.