

## The Last Words

*By Donna Bishop*

On the event of my death I instructed my children to forgo a formal funeral. I personally would like my children to throw a really good party in celebration of my life. Several years ago I made the decision to donate my physical remains to the Colorado Anatomical Society. Frankly, I would rather imagine my spirit floating among my friends and family as they reminisce about my earthly ways while enjoying good food and drink than sitting on the edge of a pew observing serious, sad faces.

Since it is my party I think it only fitting I should have the last words! I have asked my children to read them in my absence. I appreciate each of you for honoring my memory by attending. Let me introduce my family. My daughter, JoDee Megeath is here from Chicago along with her family, my sons Jim Megeath and his family from England and Tony Megeath and his wife from Colorado and my two younger sisters, Diana Dunaway and Karen Brachman, from Maryland.

Moving was a way of life for me. I lived in 10 different states and 22 different homes. Changing schools mid- year frequently. I think this contributed to my excessive shyness during childhood but it also helped me to be open to changing circumstance which has contributed to my success in life. As I matured, the shyness was replaced with a quiet attentive personality that preferred listening to talking which proved helpful in my careers and in my relationships with family, friends and colleagues.

My character was influenced early in life as a member of Brownies and Girl Scouts. Traits like honesty, patriotism, and service to others were values I accepted. I patterned myself after my storybook heroines, Raggedy Ann with the candy heart that took care of all the other dolls, and then Wonder Woman who came to save the world. Later through spiritual teachings I learned the idea of treating others the way I wanted to be treated and that I am loved by my Creator who wants me to love myself and all of His creations. I have loved well in my life and have been loved well in return.

I welcome this next page in my Book of Life. I know that your spirit encased in the body and my spirit that is absent from the body are forever joined in the frequency of love. I face the future mysteries without fear.

Eat, drink and be merry and know that you are love.