



## Mrs. Jean Hess Green

August 10, 1930 - May 15, 2026

Jean Hess Green left this world gently in May 2026, at Kimball Farms in Lenox, Massachusetts, surrounded by the care she had earned through a life lived with extraordinary courage and depth.

Born August 10, 1930, to Thelma and Ozro Hess in Akron, Michigan, Jean came into the world as an only child — and found her earliest sense of belonging in the warm company of her grandparents, Dock and Jessie Cook. She was a girl of many gifts: a cheerleader with spirit, a toe dancer with grace, and a student who excelled. Those who knew her then might have glimpsed, even in those early years, the remarkable woman she was becoming.

Jean pursued her love of language at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, where she studied English Literature. It was there she met Warren Sarley, a Navy veteran from Niles, Michigan, who had returned from service to build a future on the GI Bill. Together they made a life in East Lansing, where they welcomed three children — Gaie, Patton, and Erin — and Warren built a home with his own hands. The family moved with purpose and possibility: to Kent, Ohio, where

Warren earned his master's degree at Kent State; to Norwich, New York, where both Jean and Warren taught English at the local high school; and eventually to Gates, New York, just outside Rochester, after Jean completed specialized training with the Social Security Administration in Baltimore. Jean had always been a seeker. She began a graduate program at the University of Rochester but found herself drawn toward a different kind of knowing — not the academic study of literature, but the living questions of faith and soul. She became an independent scholar of Catholicism, studying and conversing with local priest scholars and ultimately took vows as a lay nun. In those same years, she cultivated her voice, training seriously as a singer and performing in local concerts and operas. During this time of learning to cultivate her singing voice, Jean struck up what turned out to be a deep, abiding, and lifelong friendship with Louise Wyman. Jean never did anything halfway. In 1971, she married Peter Green, a Carmelite missionary from Waverly, New York, and the two began a new chapter together — first in Virginia, then in Syracuse, where they settled to be near Gaie and Patton, who were studying at LeMoyne College. They managed an apartment complex, built a home together in Cherry Valley, and later made their way to New York City, where Peter worked for the National Episcopal Church Office in Manhattan. Though Jean and Peter eventually divorced, theirs was a bond that time and circumstance could not dissolve — they remained devoted friends for the rest of

their lives. Peter passed away in 2025, in the care of his dear companion Elaine Scrivens.

Jean's inner life continued to deepen and surprise. After a year of quiet reflection at a monastery in New Mexico, she made one of the most audacious decisions of her life: she returned to school in her sixties to earn a PhD in Jungian Analysis from Columbia University. She became a practicing Jungian analyst, offering insight and healing to many clients over the years. Jean was profoundly proud of this work — and rightfully so. Her long affiliation with the C.G. Jung Institute was a testament to her intellectual seriousness and her genuine gift for understanding the human psyche. For a decade, Jean made her home alone in the Catskills — contentedly, on her own terms. Her grandchildren Elliott and Lizzie (Gaie's children) and Lauren (Erin's daughter) hold precious memories of long visits with their Mimi: easy afternoons, shared adventures, holidays gathered close, and the particular warmth of her generous presence. Jean also traveled widely and joyfully — to Greece, Italy, France, Switzerland, and England — feeding a spirit that was always hungry for beauty and meaning. Around 2014, Jean came to rest at Kimball Farms in Lenox, Massachusetts, close to her son Patton and his wife Mary in nearby Hillsdale, New York. She moved gracefully through the community's different levels of care, receiving what she needed with the same dignity she had brought to every stage of her

life.

Jean Hess Green is survived by her beloved children: Gaie Goodness (partner Stephen Moriarty), Patton Sarley (wife Ila Sarley), and Erin Burch; her grandchildren Elliott Goodness (wife Erin Goodness), Lizzie Goodness (partner Katie Dunn), and Lauren Burch (partner PJ Trufant); and her two great-grandchildren, Olivia and Landon Goodness. Her late son-in-law Michael Goodness is also remembered with love.

She was, above all, a fiercely independent woman who trusted her own inner compass and followed it across a life of remarkable reinvention. She did not live a small life. Everyone who loved her — and everyone she helped — carries something of her insight, her courage, and her hard-won wisdom forward into the world.

Rest now, Jean. You earned it.