

February 2018 Spotlight Member Jeanne K. Smith

I honored to announce that Jeanne Smith is our February Spotlight Member. She was born and raised in Urbana, Illinois until the age of 14, when her family moved for Palo Alto for her father's health.

Her great grandmothers were friends and lived next door to each other which translated to the fact that her grandmothers and their sisters were best friends. They have a photo of both families together when her Mom was 2 and her Dad was 5. This photo hangs on their wall surrounded with black and white photos of 6 generations of women. Jeanne's daughter calls it the "Women's Shrine." She says that all of her family gatherings were reunions of friends as well as family, and she was raised with amazing support from these adults, who were all teachers!

Many of you may know Jeanne's story, but she did not choose her path that lead her to the legal community – it chose her! Having been widowed with two (2) babies, and losing five (5) immediate family members in five (5) years (including both of her parents), she was asked to write what about what she learned about preparation and estate settlement which launched her business, 25 years ago. The name of her company is "Exit Stage Right, LLC." Jeanne is a Professional Estate Organizer.

When asked what motivates her, Jeanne's reply is knowing that she can be of assistance to clients who are overwhelmed with their administrative duties, the contents of the estate home, etc. In addition, she helps clients with their own home and/or office.

Jeanne's typical is anything but typical. Each client's needs are different. One client might have her sorting the "stuff" in a late hoarder's home, doing a pictorial inventory of 600+ pieces of fine jewelry, clearing out an old filing system and finding \$70,000 in cash, or creating a filing system for a family of wealth who cannot locate documents on their numerous homes. The variety keeps her on her toes and her clients have ranged from age 11 years to those in their 90's, They all tell Jeanne stories about their "things" as she helps them go.

Jeanne has said that Santa Clara County Legal Professionals are a great group of people and that she appreciates the friendships that have developed. Professionally, she said she would like to keep expanding her knowledge base and stay current. Jeanne believes the more she knows – the better she can assist her clients!

A few tidbits about Jeanne that she would like to share is that she met her second husband whom she met in High School and reconnected 18 years later. He was the Drum Major and she was the drummer. They have three (3) children with two (2) grandchildren who live in Oklahoma, Caleb age 7 and Vivi age 2. Jeanne said her family is comprised of teachers – both of her grandmothers, a grandfather, great aunts, and her daughter. She thought that she had missed that genetic trait called "Teaching" – until she realized that HER classroom is the client's home – She teaches as they organize!

Please say "thank you" to Jeanne for sharing a little about herself and congratulate her on being chosen as our February Spotlight Member.