



Jane Chi

October 11, 1929 - January 14, 2013

Jane Chi, 84, passed away peacefully in Lenawee Medical Care Facility on January 14, 2013, after a prolonged struggle with Parkinson's disease.

Born in Beijing, China, Jane received her secondary education in St. Joseph's Middle School in Qingdao, and a B.A. in history of English literature in Aurora University in Shanghai. In 1952 she started her English teaching career with high schools in the city of Wuxi and later Qingdao. Over the years, the countless students she taught ended up in every corner of the world. In 1979 she came to the U.S. to pursue a Master's degree with an extended full scholarship that was granted to her sister Margaret some 30 years earlier from then Siena Heights College. It was only at Siena Heights did Jane have a chance to explore and unleash her remarkable talent as a fine artist especially in ceramic pottery. Jane graduated in 1982 with honors and continued her quest for ceramic artistry at Siena Heights University. Her pieces were inspiringly beautiful, often with an Eastern accent reflecting her origin, passion and philosophy. Though never commercially available, many were privately sold to her close friends or given away as gifts. Last year she donated two teapots to Siena Heights University library where they will be on permanent display. Jane became an American citizen in 1992.

In her later years, she befriended so many persons in the Adrian Senior Center and enjoyed all the activities there. Despite her illness, she could not

be slowed down when at the ping-pong table or at the shuffleboard. She retained the unsung title of ping-pong champion, only occasionally was she bested by her sister Margaret.

Jane never married, and neither did her sister Margaret. They lived together nearly in their entire lives. She is survived by Margaret, a brother Daniel who lives in China, and two nephews Jacob in Colorado and Maurice in Massachusetts.

A Funeral Mass for Jane will be at 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 18, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Adrian with Father Tom Wasilewski as celebrant. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Thursday, January 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. with Vigil service at 7 p.m. at Wagley Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Lenawee Department on Aging. Condolences are welcome at www.WagleyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Oakwood Cemetery

East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service
1501 W. Maumee St.
Adrian, MI

Service

JAN 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
415 Ormsby Street
Adrian, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Jane Chi*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Jane Chi. I had the pleasure of knowing Jane but didn't have much contact the last few years. All of the Chi's are wonderful people.*

Heinz Sturmer - January 28, 2013 at 01:58 PM

MC

“ (Eulogy cont'd - 2)

the list just gets better - you name it, she's got it all. I don't know which one or ones really worked, but I want to have maybe a piece from her collections, but no chance. Then in last September when I visited her, guess what - she wanted to pass her collections to me. Bring them out, Jane – I wanted them all. I had a huge suitcase ? You know, coincidentally my brother and I are also 2 years apart, and I am the younger. Though he never looked after me, hey things could change. Maybe he will look after me all the way to my end, eh? Since I have all of Jane's lucky charms now.

But lucky charms are for mortals, like you and me. Jane? She was so smart. She passed the lucky charms to me almost at the end of her journey on Earth for she knew she would not need them any more. Can you imagine if she brought a suitcase to heaven, with coins, stamps, shells, stones, chips, etc., what would St. Pete do? She'd probably be thrown out. But she was smart to know not to do that! She is now with God, surrounded by angels, and forever in peace. Nice going, Aunt Jane!

Yeah, she heard me.

But the true truth is, and I am sure you will all agree, that the lucky charms Jane has had are nothing but blessings from God.

Being loved and cared by her sister for her whole life journey is not just lucky, it is God's blessing!

Being protected in a mysterious way in a country village in the height of a political storm is not just lucky, it is God's blessing!

Being offered with an extended full scholarship to come to the U.S. to study and to be with her beloved sister is not just lucky, it is God's blessing!

Being ill but cared and helped by so many – relatives, friends,

neighbors, caregivers, doctors, therapists and nurses and finally passed away without any pain and discomfort is not just lucky, it is God's blessing.

It is for God's blessing that we all pray and live up to, but Jane's got it all.

Thank you, and you all for listening. May God continue His blessing on Jane and us all.

Maurice Chi - January 18, 2013 at 06:18 PM

“ (Eulogy cont'd)

But boy what a three-miles! I remember it took me almost 3 full hours to reach that poor little village where Jane took refuge and avoided all the political persecutions from Mao's red-guards. Call that lucky? You bet you.

3. By now you probably wonder how she came to the United States. Oh how I love to share this story – you are going to hear it all. It's all about luck, especially for Jane. In 1948, Aunt Margaret graduated from St. Joseph's. For her academic excellence she received a full scholarship from Siena Heights College in Adrian Michigan. You can imagine how excited she was. But unfortunately she was not able to come. There was a bloody civil war going on at the time, Communist vs. Nationalist, and the Communist was winning. At first Aunt Margaret was trying to chase the falling Nationalist government to issue a passport, but soon all was lost. After the Communist took over the country in 1949, the diplomatic relations between China and the U.S. took a sharp down turn and then frozen. There was no hope to study abroad. Both my aunts went to Aurora University in Shanghai, and became English teachers after graduation. It was not until 1978 when the U.S. and China reestablished their diplomatic relations, Margaret, after suffering from years of political persecution, started her initial contact to Siena Heights College. She asked the college in a letter if she could come to redeem her scholarship that she earned 30 years ago. Dr. Louis Vaccaro, then president of the college welcomed the idea. He worked with the college board and the dean of the graduate studies. An admission letter was sent and Margaret was to become a graduate student at Siena Heights. Meantime, in the exchange of the letters, Dr. Vaccaro learned that Margaret had a sister Jane whom she lived together with ever since they were little. The college then qualified Jane also to enter the graduate program with an equal full scholarship so she could come with Margaret. This was simply unbelievable. On the Thanksgiving Day, 1979, Margaret and her sister Jane arrived at Siena Heights College. 30 years! 30 years

was long, but not long enough to bury a dream. This was especially true for Jane that at Siena Heights she had a chance to explore and unleash her talent in ceramic artistry. Her art work were breathtakingly inspiring and beautiful. Last year she donated 2 pieces of her pottery to Siena Heights University library. If you have not seen her work, I suggest you go and see them in the library. You'll be glad you did.

4. Jane was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease about 15 years ago. I watched her handwriting became smaller and smaller, voice became lower and lower, mobility became more and more restrained as time went by. But she was a fighter! And she received so much loving cares not just from Margaret, but her friends, neighbors, her doctors, her therapist, people in Adrian Senior Center, caregivers from Friends who Care, Region 2 Area Agency for Aging, Lenawee Department on Aging, staffs in CQC, and finally the nurses in the Lenawee Medical Care Facility. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. You are incredible loving and caring people. I thank you. In Jane's final days and final hours and even the final minutes, she never had any pain or discomfort. How could she with all the loving cares around her? It was like God descended from heavens above and took her while she was asleep. Wasn't it amazing? Kim, a hospice nurse called me on the morning just a few hours after Jane was gone. Kim assured me Jane passed away in total peace.

I could go on with other evidence to prove she was the luckiest person in the world, but I don't think time is on my side. So what do you think? Wasn't she the luckiest person in the world? I often wondered why and I think I finally figured it out last year. She processed lots of lucky charms. You see she liked to collect things: coins, stamps, shells, marbles, stones, paper, wood chips, dust, ... , the list just gets better - you name it, she's

MC

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Maurice Chi - January 18, 2013 at 03:29 PM

“First of all thank you all for coming to pay the final tribute to such a fine little lady who happens to be my dearest aunt, Jane. Thank you Aunt Margaret, and thank you Brother Jacob for allowing me this opportunity. I am honored today to share some of her life stories and my personal thoughts.

If I may say one word about my aunt Jane, what would it be? That word would be ‘lucky’. She was indeed the luckiest person in my family and, perhaps, the whole world. But if she didn’t hit a multimillion jackpot, how can I say she was lucky? Well if money was one’s number one evaluation to be lucky, she was not. But lucky she was that she had a wonderful life where money was never a subject matter – her life was full of lucky charms. And let me tell you why.

1. My aunt Jane never married, nor did her sister Margaret. The two of them pretty much have lived their lives together ever since Jane was born. You see my grandpa had 4 children: my dad was the oldest, followed by 2 girls Margaret and Jane, and then my uncle Daniel. Margaret was 2 years older than Jane. But what a two years difference it has made! Jane was always treated as a 3 year old by Margaret – what to wear, how much to eat, when to sleep, etc., etc. And I can assure you the loving care Jane received from her sister was quite intense in times. Some of you here might have witnessed just a few days ago when Jane lied on bed in the Lenawee Medical Care Facility and commented, I quote, “Margaret is very bossy!” Oh, yes, and yes indeed, Margaret has been her caregiver for years. It went all the way back, gee, I don’t know when – it certainly was way before she was diagnosed with her Parkinson’s. Would you not consider lucky to have a sister who always looks after you, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, to have and to cherish, ... While she didn’t like to be ‘bossed’ (quote and end-quote) around, but how lucky was she to have always received loving care from her sister, from the time she was 2 and all the way to the end! Do you not think luck has something to do with it? So here it is – prove number one that luck was with her in her whole life.

2. My grandpa was a doctor, well known by his name and very financially secured. He was a protestant yet he for some reason sent both of his girls to a private Catholic school for their secondary education. Now this was no ordinary private school - it was the most privileged middle school in the city of Qingdao, China. It was situated next to a beautiful cathedral built by the Germans at the turns of 19 and 20th century. The school belonged to and was managed by the Franciscan nuns in Wisconsin. It was called St. Joseph's Middle School (some connections here, too). You know in a catholic school, you were not taught just arithmetic and grammar, you were also engaged to activities like girl scout, or Legend of Mary, and many others. So it was with my two aunts. You wouldn't think it was such a big deal to be engaged in such extra curriculum activities, right? Wrong! The 'wrong' (quote and end-quote) came when the Cultural Revolution swept China between 1966 and 1976. My aunt Margaret, especially, was severely persecuted for her Catholic faith and her involvement in Legend of Many. She suffered the most inhuman punishment during that time – beating, humiliation, forced labors, to scratch just the surface. Had she not had a strong Catholic faith, my aunt Margaret would have ended her life then. But what about for my aunt Jane? Miraculously her teaching only was disrupted for about a year when she was sent to the countryside to be, quote and end-quote, 'reeducated' by the peasants. But she was well respected in the village far from the politically storm-swept cities. I remember my visiting her - a train ride for almost 12 hours to a tiny little station in the middle of nowhere, mountains and hills were as far as eyes could see. I then had to walk, for what I was told 5 kilometers - that's roughly 3 miles. But boy what a three-miles! I remember it took me almost 3 full hours to rea

Maurice Chi - January 18, 2013 at 02:22 PM

SM

“ *May the memory of happy times together sustain you in this sad time.*

Steven Sherman, M.D.

Steven Sherman, M.D. - January 17, 2013 at 09:07 PM

AF

“ *All your friends purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Jane Chi.*



All your friends - January 16, 2013 at 11:04 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Jane Chi.*



January 16, 2013 at 11:54 AM

“ Dear Aunt Jane,

Seeing your picture on my computer screen simply brings tears to my eyes. For almost two days, I do not know how to respond to your leaving us, and entering the grace of God. I do not know whether I was sad or happy, because I cannot believe that this has happened.

As I sit here, in front of you and God, I feel how much I missed your voice, and your smile, and your unwavering love of life. I am so happy that I have had a chance to meet you, and know you in this world, and I pray that you are happy and watching over us together with God!

I cannot stop my tears, because we still have one more ping pong match to play, and one more story to share, and one more breakfast to enjoy, and one more family gathering to be together. Life is full of wonderful memories, and you have been so much a part of my life, however distant we may be during those times.

I will always remember how much you, Aunt Linda, and Uncle Frank have cared for me, and loved me when I was just a teenager. As God has chosen you and Aunt Margaret, to begin the journey of the Chi and Li family into the great country of the United States of America, and together we have shared the love of God, with Lou and Linda, over many happy years.

Now my children are grown and entering colleges, my life has come a full circle in a different dimension, since I started my life in the States as a college student. I can only pray that their lives be blessed with souls like those God has blessed unto me. As life is almost unimaginable without kind souls like you, gift of God!

I have to leave you now, since I will have to carry on God's work, to spread his kindness to the people that I could touch, same as the way you have touched so many fortunate souls. May God be with you, and with the grieving family members, and friends, for he shall

keep his words to deliver you and honor you!

Love,

Wilfred and Michelle

Wilfred Li - January 16, 2013 at 10:37 AM

MC

Thank you, Wil, for tender your thoughts and memory at this time. I will have Auntie Margaret read your post when she has a chance. Say hello to your wife whom I look forward to meeting one day.

Maurice

Maurice Chi - January 16, 2013 at 05:13 PM

WL

“ *Wilfred Li lit a candle in memory of Jane Chi*



Wilfred Li - January 16, 2013 at 09:58 AM

MC

Very sweet of you, Wil. Thank you!

Maurice Chi - January 16, 2013 at 05:18 PM

LV

“ *To the Family of Jane Chi:*

To think of Jane is to remember her gifts, an artist and creative woman whose agile hands molded her vision of the world. Her ceramic works, so precious, reflected the beauty of God's creation, a simple flourish of a flower stroked with love and passion from the hands of a woman who embraced and understood the details of God's handiwork.

This was one of her expressive joys.

To know Jane was to know that she loved her family and friends, especially Margaret, her devoted sister and blessed caregiver, who she shared the best and worst of times.

To know Jane was to know her strength of character, not only as a serious ping pong player, but her fierce fight against illness, which took away her indomitable independence, but showed us all that she was a "fighter" to the finish line.

To know Jane was to know you had a life friend, to be inspired by the way she loved her two countries, China and the United States, her faith, and all that is good in life.

To know Jane was to know that you would always feel welcome in her home and be given the opportunity to partake in some stimulating and intellectual conversation, or even a humorous tale, told in her melodic way.

To know Jane was a blessing and now we know that she has been liberated from her suffering and is now in His divine glory.

We are grieving with you and pray for all of you as you mourn the loss of Jane, a very special, loved, and spirited woman who made life "extra" for all of us who have known her.

Our very sincere and deepest sympathy.

Louis and Linda Vaccaro

Linda & Louis Vaccaro - January 15, 2013 at 07:10 PM

MC

Only an inspirational life could've inspired such inspirational words! Thank you, Linda and Dr. V, for sharing your thoughts and prayers in this difficult time. You indeed have up lifted our souls and spirits to a much higher level. God Bless!

Maurice

Maurice Chi - January 16, 2013 at 09:32 AM

SO

*Dear Margaret and Maurice,
It saddened me to find the notification of the death of Jane.
I have many memories of her and you, Margaret, praying with us here at the Motherhouse chapels over the years.
Although I haven't seen you for quite a while I wondered about the two brave women who smiled and greeted us after Mass.
Now I realize why we haven't seen you recently. Please know your presence has been missed.. My prayers are with you.*

Sister Pat Spangler op

Sister Pat Spangler op - January 17, 2013 at 12:23 PM

MC

Dear Sister Pat,

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. God bless you!

Maurice

Maurice Chi - January 21, 2013 at 06:07 PM