



Agnes J. Shimizu

May 10, 1942 - June 4, 2020

Agnes Jean Shimizu (Levernier) was born on May, 1942 in Northfield, IL to Joseph Levernier Sr. and Jean Levernier (nee Werner).

Her life was a great adventure through tumultuous times with unwavering dedication to the arts, children and kindness to others.

She was born in a time of Great War, being only 6-months old when the Chicago-Pile ignited the first nuclear reaction just 30 miles from her house. Among her earliest memories were letters received from her father while on board the USS Enterprise (CV-6) in the pacific fighting Imperial Japan.

As a child Agnes began showing a passion for the Arts including Ballet dance. She also began growing tall and was bullied for her height before graduating from Eisenhower High School (Hopkins) in 1960.

Fortunately she had the last laugh when she went on to become a model in the early 60's for retailer Dayton Hudson's (Target) and many others.

(Insert Modeling Picture)

In 1960, Agnes enrolled in Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD). It was very rare at the time for women to go to college (one of just two women to graduate in her class).

During this time she used modelling to pay for school. At MCAT she also met

her future Japanese husband, Michio.

(Insert Picture in Japan 1968)

Agnes graduated in 1964 from MCAD and went on to work as a clothing Designer for Munsingwear (The Original Penguin) and her designs made it as far as the Paris runway.

Agnes and Michio were married and by May 1968 were in Japan to celebrate. Despite a world of chaos around her, where Martin Luther King had been assassinated only weeks before and Robert Kennedy only weeks later, Agnes continued marching without fear to the beat of a different drum.

Agnes would go on to raise five children (Stephen, Dominique, Helena, Jerome, Clement), and live on three different continents.

She enjoyed volunteering her time as an Art Appreciation Teacher at John Ireland School in Hopkins and as a tour guide for many years at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Agnes re-married late in life to James Barretto, having many happy memories living together in St.Louis Park, MN.

She passed peacefully Thursday night surrounded by family, listening to them singing Amazing Grace.

Agnes is survived by:

Mother Jean Levernier (101)

Brother Joseph Levernier Jr.

Children (Stephen, Dominique, Helena, Jerome, Clement)

Grandchildren (Dominick Max, Joseph, JJ, Luke, Samuel, ??, Dominick, Angela Jean, and Maximilian)

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Chapel Service

JUN 11. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Funeral Service for Agnes J. Shimizu in memory of Agnes J. Shimizu



Washburn-McReavy - June 08, 2020 at 09:38 AM

DS

Nice to see Peter and Joe speak.

Dr. Clement Shimizu - June 11, 2020 at 01:01 PM

MD

“ Sending condolences and heartfelt sympathy to Agnes’s family, I am truly sorry for your loss. I met Agnes about 18 years ago when my brother Jimmy brought her ‘up north’ to meet “the family”. I know not what she thought of us....but when I saw my brother’s glow and joy, I knew he had a treasure. She had such a positive influence on his life. Her gentleness, kindness, generosity and peace-filled spirit were a gift for all of us. Know of my prayers for the repose of her soul and also for all of you. Eternal rest grant onto her O Lord...May she rest in peace. Sincerely, Marlene Dropp (Jimmy’s sister)



marlene dropp - June 12, 2020 at 11:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Regina Metzner - June 11, 2020 at 10:14 AM



“ In stiller Trauer

Regina Metzner - June 11, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jerome Shimizu - June 11, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jerome Shimizu - June 11, 2020 at 08:51 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jerome Shimizu - June 11, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jerome Shimizu - June 11, 2020 at 08:49 AM

SP

“ I am so saddened by Agnes’ death. I pray she is in a happier place. I have been reflecting about our friendship which I will share. We became friends in 1983 when Jerome and Mark were in first grade at John Ireland. I had started the Art Adventure program at school. Knowing that she enjoyed art, I asked her to take over the project. She kept the kids intrigued. They looked forward to the picture lady coming. She was also a docent at the MIA and entered floral bouquet interpretations during Art in Bloom.

Agnes taught my daughter how to sew. Kirstin made her confirmation dress under Agnes’s supervision. In the past few years Kirstin has used her sewing skills at St. John Prep in Collegeville as costume director for the drama department for a couple of years. She still sews the monks habits. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she has sewn over 100 masks and waterproof gowns for the nurses at the Buffalo MN hospital. Kirstin loves to sew thanks to Agnes teachings.

Agnes and I enjoyed going together to art fairs. We met for coffee throughout the years and we discussed books, art, religion, flowers, and our children and grandchildren. We usually went shopping afterwards. I will always remember she said how consistent my tastes in clothes were. It was a wonderful compliment from her. She and I understood clothes and colors.

It was such an honor to stand up with her when she and Jim were married.

She loved her family very much. I hope you keep memories of her alive for her grandchildren. She was a very caring, gentle, kind person. Blessings to you.

Sue Petrosky

Sue Petrosky - June 10, 2020 at 08:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Agnes J. Shimizu.*



June 10, 2020 at 12:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Agnes J. Shimizu.*



June 10, 2020 at 09:15 AM