



ChanSoon Olson

May 18, 1948 - June 20, 2021

Mrs. ChanSoon Olson was born on May 18, 1948 and passed away on June 20, 2021 after a year-long battle with mesothelioma. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, educator, mentor, and friend, she will always be remembered for her generous heart and warm spirit. Throughout her life, she consistently held true to her values of love, prudence, education, fortitude, and a taste for culture and the arts.

She is survived by her husband of 50 years, James; her two sons, Jeffrey and Jonathan; her daughters-in-law Melissa and Catherine; her grandchildren, Graham, Amelia, Ashton, and James; and her older brothers, Lee Yoon Ho, Rhee Jeong Ho, Lee Jun Ho, and Lee Myung Ho.

Mrs. Olson was born in Seoul, South Korea as the first female born in 5 generations in her family. Her adoring family showered her with love and affection, and they also encouraged her to thrive in every aspect of life. She became a star student, representing her nation in various international academic competitions. She earned a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from the Sook Myung Women's University in Seoul, and then she met her husband, James, at the Australian Embassy in Seoul while he was serving in the US Army in South Korea. After getting married, they returned to the US, where Mrs. Olson earned another Bachelor's degree, a certification in English as a Second Language (ESL), and two masters

degrees, all related to education, literacy, and linguistics.

Mrs. Olson selflessly and passionately dedicated 40 years as an educator, and she touched the lives of countless students. She held several positions throughout the Saint Paul Public School system, including an elementary teacher, literacy coordinator, and ESL instructor. Following her retirement from Saint Paul schools, she fulfilled a lifelong dream to return to South Korea when she taught Korean Language and Culture for 9 years at the high school on Osan Air Base. Her true gift for teaching and enriching her students' lives made her an instant hit with her students, their families, and her schools. She also held multiple workshops for other educators, guiding them on effective teaching, phonemic awareness and phonics instruction, and literacy development. Her dedication helped her rise to achieve National Board Certification, the top honor for our Nation's master teachers, and then-President Bill Clinton thanked and recognized her in person at the White House. Upon her retirement from teaching, numerous students poured out their genuine gratitude and love for her, writing letters and creating scrapbooks to express how she impacted their lives.

The memorial service to celebrate Mrs. ChanSoon Olson's life will take place on Monday, June 28, 2021. The visitation will start at 1:00 PM, service at 2:00 PM, and hors d'oeuvres at 3:00 PM (all times are US Central Time). All events will be held at the Washburn-McReavy Funeral Home and Chapel in Edina, Minnesota.

To view the livestream of the memorial service, please go to <https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/obituaries/Chansoon-Olson/#!/PhotosVideos>

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to the Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation by going to <https://curemeso.salsalabs.org/tributepages/p/chansoonolsontributepage/index.html>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 28. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Chapel Service

JUN 28. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

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

Reception

JUN 28. 3:00 PM - 4:00 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 of ChanSoon Olson in memory of ChanSoon Olson



Washburn-McReavy - June 23, 2021 at 03:30 PM

TB

*We remember Chan Soon as a lovely person with a sweet smile and kind word.
We miss you both as neighbors and send heartfelt sympathies to you, Jim during this difficult time.
With warm memories,
Steve and Tammy Benke*

Tamolyn Benke - June 24, 2021 at 09:00 PM

KY

*Dear Jim, The word of your wife ChanSoon's sudden death shocked me severely, and I know well what her passing must mean to you. I too, lost my dear Mother in March.
I realize how close you were and that you cherished your special relationship. I am very glad that I had the pleasure of meeting you for the first time when you and ChanSoon visited N.Y. City during the holiday Season. Remember, We, Chang Duck girls of 3 and husbands had a delicious Korean lunch. ChanSoon was energetic, chatty as usual and lots of laughter.
I am going to miss her.
I know that your faith and courage will bring you peace in the midst of this great sorrow.
With all my Sympathy,
Kay(Kyunghai) Yang*

Kay H Yang - June 24, 2021 at 09:51 PM

DG

Dear Jim and family, Our sincere sympathy for your loss of ChanSoon. She was so lovely, kind and gifted. Your thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Diane (Olson) \and Al Gapinski.

Diane Olson Gapinski - June 27, 2021 at 06:07 PM

DJ

Dear Jim and family, our sympathy to all of you for the loss of your partner, your mom, your teacher and your ping pong champion. We were blessed to witness her smiles, laugh and gentle touch up close. We were treated to her encouragement each and every time we were together. May her lessons for each of you remain an inspiration forever. From Colorado, love Don Jensen and Tanya Hemphill

Donald Jensen - June 28, 2021 at 04:02 PM

SS

“ *Chan Soon was an important part of my initial teaching career. She helped guide me in best practices, and it seemed as if she could easily turn any lesson into a chant or song that Students would adore and remember. She will be missed. She was a great inspiration to so many people. All my love and blessings to her family during this difficulty time!*

s simonet - June 30, 2021 at 07:30 PM

JU

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Judy - June 29, 2021 at 07:01 PM

SS

Classic photo! What a great image!

s simonet - June 30, 2021 at 07:35 PM

TR

“ So glad you visited us last year. Such a simple event, yet so memorable.



The St Louis Area Rasters - June 28, 2021 at 03:17 PM

DB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dorothy Blackmon - June 28, 2021 at 08:45 AM

JR

“ *Jim: The time that I spent getting to know you and Chan Soon has always been memorable. I was shocked to read about Chan Soon's death in the newspaper today. Even though we have not been in touch of late, I will always have a special place in my memory for the two of you.*

Judy Rhein

Judith Rhein - June 27, 2021 at 02:50 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of ChanSoon Olson.*



June 27, 2021 at 12:32 PM



“ *Dear Jim and family of Chan Soon: I was deeply saddened today as I read about Chan Soon's passing. I was fortunate to have worked closely with both Jim and Chan Soon at Augsburg University some years ago. I cherish my time with them; they were, indeed, models of efficiency for Augsburg and also very kind and charitable people--inspirational, in a word. I hope that God will give you strength during this difficult time and in the future. Thank you for blessing my life! To quote scripture, "I thank God upon my every remembrance of you." Boyd Koehler, associate professor emeritus, Augsburg University*

Boyd Koehler - June 27, 2021 at 11:21 AM

FR

“ We will always keep our good friend and excellent school teacher ChanSoon in our hearts and minds. Jim said on one occasion when we were talking about how our daughters looked up to ChanSoon that she has made a difference to many people. Certainly also to our family. In particular Margrethe’s, also born in Korea, self esteem and self confidence has been nourished by her care and strength. She has learned that everything is possible if you put all your energy and strong will into it. She has become a lawyer. We have taken good care of ChanSoon’s master thesis on the development of the first grader Ragnhild, our second daughter, who was so well taken care of in her classroom. ChanSoon’s energy, good humour and strong focus on the importance of learning turned out to be the educational foundation year of a successful psychologist.

The then three-year-old Andreas has been updated on the Olsons throughout his life, and remembers with great joy John from the millenium New Year’s Eve he was here, being stopped by customs finding kimchi in his luggage, and the Olson’s visting Sandefjord, Norway, a few years before when we were out fishing , swimming and barbequeing self caught mackerel.

We cherish our friendship with ChanSoon and Jim, John and Jeff. We think of you often and have fond memories of the times we met; in St Paul, in Korea and in Sandefjord. We wouldn’t have gotten into the American way of life the way we did without ChanSoon and Jim. Not to speak of how ChanSoon taught us about Korea and the Korean culture, it’s been mind setting and very important in our understanding of where our good daughter comes from.

Anne Margrethe and Finn

Finn Røijen - June 27, 2021 at 04:01 AM

DB

“ Dear Jim and Family,
I have so many wonderful memories of working with Chansoon at Expo. Not only was she an amazing teacher and mentor but a friend. She made work fun. She was kind and helpful. Outside of work she loved to get together for walks at Como Lake or coffee somewhere just to visit. She loved flowers. She loved to have people over and to share good food. I was so blessed to have her as a friend. She was such a good listener and truly cared about your well being. She was so positive and optimistic. My last messages from her I will cherish. She really felt she could beat her health issue . She said she would tell me all about it. I told her I would pray for her recovery. She never had the chance to tell me all about it. My last chat with her was June 3, 2021 via messenger. She said she hoped to visit me in Door County God willing. I know she would have if she could have. That is the kind of person she was. Always optimistic and true to her word. Chansoon was an inspiration to how you can live your life and achieve goals professionally and personally. She loved life and lived it well. I am grateful to have known her and will cherish the memories always. Rest in Peace my sweet friend. With my deepest sympathy and prayers. Dorothy Blackmon



Dorothy Blackmon - June 26, 2021 at 05:23 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of ChanSoon Olson.



June 25, 2021 at 05:27 PM

BJ

“ We are so shocked to hear the sad news. We pray for the repose of ChanSoon with a sincere heart and pray that the sorrow of all family members will be comforted in God's grace.

ChanSoon was a good friend who was nice, friendly , and trustworthy. We think her soul is looking down at us with peace in heaven. May God's peace and comfort be with us all.

Bokyung, Younghee,
Sookhee and Jaihee



Bokyung, Younghee, Sookhee, Jaihee - June 25, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of ChanSoon Olson.



June 25, 2021 at 09:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of ChanSoon Olson.



June 25, 2021 at 07:19 AM

MS

“ Jim,
Me and my family send our deep condolences to you and your family.
Chansoon has been my best friend and sister since we met in high school. Her lovely presence always enlightened the people around her and her warm heart always took care of the needed. Albeit my deep sorrow for not seeing her, i have no doubt that we will meet again in Heaven where she will be shining. I pray for peace an comfort for your beautiful family.
Myoung Sook



Myung Sook - June 25, 2021 at 07:03 AM

KY

“ Kay H Yang lit a candle in memory of ChanSoon Olson



Kay H Yang - June 24, 2021 at 09:51 PM

CK

“ Jim, I am devastated by your loss and have you and your family in my prayers. Chan Soon was a remarkable person , who enjoyed life to the fullest and exuded joy to those around her. Her dedication and caring have impacted the lives of family, friends and students. Thought her soul has been lifted into Heaven, I believe her spirit will reside in the heartfelt memories that we share. Her life is truly one to be celebrated. God's Blessings to you and your family during this difficult journey. Peace and comfort

Carole Kuns - June 24, 2021 at 04:43 AM

AG

“ I am very sorry for your loss. Chan Soon was an extraordinary teacher. She made a remarkable difference for our sons, Timothy and Peter at Expo Elementary. We had been told that Tim was a "struggling reader". He was a student who hadn't yet been taught to read. He had Chan Soon for 2 years and thrived and soared to great heights as a reader. Now, he's an English major heading for law school. Chan Soon is one of the most influential teachers in our sons' lives (and in my professional life as an educator). I honor her and am so saddened to hear of her passing. Peace to you, Jim.

Anne Gattman - June 23, 2021 at 10:30 PM

CK

“ Chi Kosloski lit a candle in memory of ChanSoon Olson



Chi Kosloski - June 23, 2021 at 06:07 PM