

# Grace Wong Kurtz

Grace loved being alive and loved connecting with people.

Her openness and generosity and interest in others seemed to have no limit. Grace's built-in warmth and kindness could melt the densest iceberg, and others inevitably responded to the genuineness of her attention. One friend said, "Grace was the kindest, warmest and strongest person I've ever met." Another said, "Grace is one of those special people you can never forget. She is smart, talented, vivacious, caring and, yes, she is also obstinate..."

To Jerry, her husband of 20 years, Grace was a loving, considerate and devoted wife and, in his words, "an all-around terrific companion." He says, "When Grace wanted to give it was no act of politeness or any kind of act; it was authentic and came from the depth of her being — that was Grace."

Grace was deeply involved with family, and derived great satisfaction and joy from the achievements and companionship of her 3 beloved children, Marcus, Melisa and Marianne, and from their selection of partners Marnae, Ed and Stig, and from playing with her grandchildren Nevaeh and Mitchell and seeing them grow. Her recent goal — unrealized — was to meet with Melisa and Ed's first child Ari, who was to be born October 25, and whom she'd long dreamed of nurturing. She was the chief caregiver for her first husband Tom, who lived a year and a half after brain tumor surgery. She also cared for her mother for more than 20 years.

Grace devoted considerable effort to keeping in touch with — and in some cases tracking down — her and Jerry's aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins — and cousins of cousins!

She was funny and known for her laugh till the end. She laughed easily, often and fully. Her resilience in the face of her illness was legendary and inspired many. More than one friend was "in awe of her energy and perseverance and lively spirit." Her son-in-law Ed was inspired to complete his leg of the Tour de France when the rain and 34°F. weather on Alpe d'huez caused 4,500 of his 6,300 co-entrants to abandon the race.

Everyone who knew Grace knew that she loved to travel. Even after a round of chemo, she rallied herself and flew to some unacquainted district of the planet. Travel was absolutely nurturing to her, and as long as she could walk, she could fly.

Grace had a thousand interests, a thousand skills, a bursting creativity. She was well-known for her painting, particularly landscapes and waterscapes, many inspired by her extensive and frequent travels. Always her preference was to be *at the place, outdoors*.

She also loved to garden, to talk on the phone, to make short or long car trips, to hike in the woods and mountains, and even to walk and buy groceries and chat with strangers on Clement Street. She enjoyed cooking and was known for her Singapore dishes like chili crab. Eating excellently — and healthfully when possible — was important to her. As regularly as she could manage she did yoga, tai chi, Pilates and walking.

On top of her many interests and extraordinary human qualities, Grace was brilliant and full of insight, with down-to-earth business sense and judgment that cut to the core. She could be both practical and visionary. She earned a Ph.D. in microbiology and traveled throughout Asia carrying out training on disease-detecting instruments and giving lectures on specialized subjects in Surabaya, Bandung, Cebu, Sarawak, Brunei, Kuala Lumpur, Kunming and Beijing. She was also a certified medical technologist and acquired a first-hand grasp of what patients were thinking about and what they really needed, working and later training others at labs and hospitals throughout Northern California and East Asia.

Besides English she spoke Mandarin, Hokkien, Cantonese, Malay and Teochew, and recently some Italian and Spanish.

She was active in the Church of Latter-Day Saints, especially in the Chinese Branch. She worked with the Interfaith Council and gave lectures to generate interest in genealogy for those with a Chinese background.

# Program

January 14, 2012  
Century Club of California  
1355 Franklin Street, San Francisco

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Opening Photo Slideshow          | Ballroom Stage                             |
| Master of Ceremonies             | Elliot Lieberman                           |
| Songs                            | Pamela Rose, Vocals, and Tammy Hall, Piano |
|                                  | <i>Unforgettable</i>                       |
|                                  | <i>Close To You</i>                        |
|                                  | <i>How Deep is Your Love</i>               |
| Remarks                          | Jerry Kurtz, <i>husband</i>                |
|                                  | Song: <i>Because You Loved Me</i>          |
|                                  | Marcus Morgan, <i>son</i>                  |
|                                  | Melisa Morgan, <i>daughter</i>             |
|                                  | Linda Won, <i>friend</i>                   |
|                                  | Song: <i>You Raised Me Up</i>              |
| Closing Remarks & Announcements  | Elliot                                     |
|                                  | Song: <i>Amazing Grace</i>                 |
| Buffet Lunch                     | Drawing Room and Foyer                     |
| Photo Slideshow <i>continues</i> | Ballroom Stage                             |
| Grace's Paintings Slideshow      | Drawing Room Screen, East Wall             |
| Short Movie of Grace             | Drawing Room Screen, East Wall             |
| Exhibit of Grace's Paintings     | Ballroom and Foyer                         |

## Announcements.

*Guest Book.* Please sign and write what you want to write. A lot of people loved Grace and a lot of people have something to say that we want to hear. Maybe we can put these words on Grace's website.

*Website.* Photos and movie of Grace, plus paintings, available shortly at [www.gracewongkurtz.com](http://www.gracewongkurtz.com). Coming soon: Also a timeline of trips and birthday dinners, résumé, etc.

*Jerry's Songs CD.* Take one when you're ready to go home.

|  |
|--|
| <p><i>In Memoriam:</i> Contributions in lieu of flowers can be made to the Grace Wong Kurtz Memorial Research Fund. Please make checks to "UC Regents c/o Hope Rugo" and write "Grace Wong Kurtz Research Fund/Rugo" on the memo line. Please mail to Dr. Hope Rugo, University of California San Francisco – Mt Zion, 1600 Divisadero St., Box 1710, San Francisco, CA 94115.</p> |
|--|