英華的女兒:懷念陳曼麗

陳尚欣 ('71)

移民奮鬥史

曼麗 ('67) 在1987年與夫婿和子女移民加拿大多倫多,從1994年開始在多倫多頤康安老院任職行政總監,2012年退休,不負董事會所託,披荆斬棘,突破官僚主義,團結社區,懷著無比決心為加拿大華人長者爭取「有尊嚴、不受言語障礙影響」的安老服務,帶領頤康發展成為今日加國最具規模及優質的非牟利機構,服務社區長者,享負盛名,有四間護理院,合共提供805個長期療養名額,及多棟長者大廈共數百個長者家居單位,亦舉辦多項耆老日間消閒活動及支援服務,並提供資訊與轉介服務等。

曼麗營運及發展安老服務的理念由心出發,保障用家權益,貼心惠澤長者,後來市議會先後按頤康建立的標準立法,成功為全市的安老院舍服務提昇質素,簡述如下:

- 1) 每間標準房最多只可入住兩人;
- 2) 成立院友議會:及
- 3) 成立家庭成員議會。

頤康基金會創辦人王裕佳醫生憶述他對曼麗的印象:「聘請曼麗是我一生中最好的決定。她對頤康及安老服務行業的貢獻是無可比擬的。曼麗身驅驕小,卻是我心中的巨人 (Florence is really a giant in a small body.)。」

曼麗的同事吳婷婷 (Amy Go) ('78) 憶述共事的點滴:「她秉公辦事, 公平有原則。而且差不多每早7時抵達辦公室, 最遲一位下班。」

曼麗的女兒Iris 最敬佩媽媽為人:「苦幹、堅毅、樂觀、以身作則。」

華人之光

曼麗於2024年1月19日在多倫多息勞歸主。頤康董事會成員及萬錦 / 史托維爾市加拿大國會議員Dr Helena Jaczek今年2月26日在國會發言表揚曼麗對耆老服務的貢獻。

對她的離去我們深感婉惜。她的奮鬥、服務人群、不辭勞苦的一生,活出母校對莘莘學子的教誨——「非以役人,乃役於人」,是我們的典範和驕傲,鼓舞各位師妹努力不懈,發光發熱。最後謹在此向曼麗的家人及四位姊妹(曼玲('63)、曼虹('69)、婉兒('71)、婉華('75)) 致以深切的慰問。

筆者註:

部份內容節錄自以下加拿大媒體報導: Globe and Mail

(https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-administrator-florence-wong-was-a-pioneer-in-delivery-of-culturally/),

Toronto

Star

(https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/a-giant-in-a-small-body-florence-wong-helped-change-senior-care-in-toronto/article 98e02dd0-bafb-11ee-9916-97e372fa3608.html) 及Cable Public Affairs Channel (https://www.yeehong.com/foundation/)。

Man Lai

Alice Fok ('67)



Man Lai's motto was 『勇者無懼』. This was fuelled by her strong conviction to stand up for what was right.

She was our class captain in F6 & F7. She would speak up for us when required, though on some occasions, she knew the person she had to face was not too approachable.

Man Lai in 1967



Her Chinese calligraphy work in 2018

留下佳美腳蹤的陳曼麗 —代表多倫多長者說謝謝 何侶姍('67)

每次見到陳曼麗, 她都是開朗、坦誠、溫柔、和藹可親, 正如聖經上説的「常常喜樂」, 時刻給人很舒服很親切的感覺。

知道她曾在加拿大盲人協會工作,幫助及培訓失明人士自理日常生活,由煮食到選擇衣服穿著,獨立照顧自己,感到她的付出很有意義。曼麗充滿愛心又有耐性,思緒明確,說話清晰,是神賦予她的豐厚恩賜。後來她轉職「頤康」工作,有一次我因捐贈物件去探訪她,她接待我如上賓,帶著我參觀整個中心,不厭其煩詳細解釋,老人家和職員見到她都十分開心。她還在百忙中參加每一位長者的生辰慶祝,很多都是百歲高齡。曼麗是一位受人尊敬和愛戴的好院長、好領導。

退休以後,她邀請我們到她新居享用美食,那道蘿蔔牛腩色香味俱全,很有水準,她真是一個「出得廚房,入得廳堂」的現代女性。

今年初驚聞她去世的消息,感到十分意外和難過,依依不捨這位很能幹又聰慧的同學,因為她的勤奮努力和無私的付出,無數長者受益,讓他們得到悉心照顧,安享晚年,加拿大安老院舍的歷史亦從此改寫,如今她已息勞歸主,願上帝施以厚恩報答她的勞苦。



曼麗 (前左) 在家款待朋友和同學 (前右為何侶姍、後右為余西鴻)

A Tribute to Florence Chan Man Lai

Yue Sai Hung ('67)

Reunion in Toronto

After our high school graduation in 1967, Florence and I went our separate ways and lost contact with each other for many years. One day, we bumped into each other at a TTC (Toronto Transit Commission) subway station. If I remember correctly, she was working for CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) at that time. We were so happy that we met and reconnected again.



Our first YW annual dinner in Toronto (1995)

Back row, from left: Yue Sai Hung, Miss Tong, Mak Chui Han, Ma Yin Mui, Ng Sau Kee, Cheng Pui Kuen

Front row, from left: Ip Yung Tuen, Yeung Mei Wah, Chan Man Lai, Lam Fung Yee

Participation in YW events

Since our reunion in Toronto, we started seeing each other at Ying Wa's annual dinner gatherings. Among her busy schedules, Florence often made time to attend the Ying Wa annual dinners since 1995. Also, whenever we had visiting classmates in Toronto, she would make time to join us for meals. Her presence often added talking points and warmth to our midst.

Memory of Florence

Florence had a very gentle disposition. She was easy to talk to and always smiling and courteous to all those in contact with her. When she had retired from her work with Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, she moved to a place in Scarborough which was close to where I was living. Consequently, we often attended the Ying Wa gatherings together. From talking to her whenever we met, I found that she was living a disciplined life such as getting up at the break of dawn to work out before starting the day's work. She kept herself busy between spending time with her family, calligraphy, cooking and continued to get involved with the future development of Yee Hong which showed that she had a heart for the geriatric care in the community. To me, she had set an example in living a successful retirement life. Her passing was a great loss to the geriatric community, and we miss her dearly in our Ying Wa circle of friends.



Dim sum lunch with visiting classmates - Yeung Mei Wah from Hong Kong and Chan Ching Fee from Ottawa (April 2023)

Back row, from left: Mak Chui Han, Chung Mun Ling, Chan Ching Fee, Ho Lui San, Chan Wai Yu, Yeung Mei Wah

Front row, from left: Yue Sai Hung, Wong Yau Wai, Chan Man Lai

同窗同感同使命 吳魏仲斐 ('67)

與曼麗在英華同窗七載, 想不到大家會在加國懷着同一信念、同一異象、同一使命, 一起服務者老, 一切都是神奇妙的安排! 曼麗在我的事業上扶了我大大的一把。

1994年,我在教會開始教年長班主日學時,看到無數長者移居加國後,因語言隔閡,生活習慣不同,時感無奈及無助,於是我開始投身做義工,為長者服務,無論是探訪、交通接送、及傳譯、翻譯等都時有參與。



曼麗 (前排左三) 與同屆同學在多倫多聚會

那時,因孩子漸漸長大,我開始躍躍欲試,擬重回職場,祈禱求神賜我機會,服務長者。 1996年,神聽了我的禱告,在籌建卡加利第一間華人護理院的事工上有份。那時,我第一時間想到的,便是去温哥華的「中僑」及多倫多的「頤康」取經。神的安排真奇妙,中僑的行政總監竟然是英華師姐,頤康的行政總監更是我英華同窗曼麗!於是,我開始了三地奔馳,更開始了我和曼麗的重逢重聚。

1973年從多倫多大學畢業後,我便去了美國進修碩士,1974年底隨夫搬來了加拿大石油之都卡加利,沒想到廿多年後才重訪多倫多。我三顧草蘆,再三顧草蘆,蒙曼麗和王裕佳醫生在草蘆充當諸葛亮,不吝賜教,由籌款計劃、院舍設施、到行政管理、人力資源等,各細節都是我的指南針及定心丸,亦師亦友,助我披荆斬棘,排除萬難,有此良師,夫復何求!卡加利的榮基護老中心,自2005年第一座院舍建成以來,至今已有三間院舍,第四間正在籌款興建中。榮基能服務無數有需要的耆老,全是神的恩典,曼麗居功至偉!

曼麗, 你隨和開朗、關愛長者、無私付出、敬業樂業, 是我的良師益友, 我們永遠懷念你!



上照攝於1967年中五畢業時, 曼麗在後排左四位置。 下照攝於2017年, 曼麗在左三位置。