



Nien-Wei Hsiao

June 3, 1968 - March 3, 2025

Obituary for Nien-Wei Hsiao June 03, 1968 ~ March 03, 2025

Nien-Wei Hsiao, 56, of Vancouver, Washington, passed away at the Ray Hickey Hospice House in Vancouver on the morning of March 03, 2025.

Nien-Wei was born on June 03, 1968, in Taipei, Taiwan. She immigrated with her parents Yuan-Tao Hsiao and Pei-Huan Hsiao, and brother I-Li Hsiao to Chicago, Illinois in the early 1980's. It was during her high school years that she first developed her passion for classical music and desire to be a teacher. She attended the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana for a bachelor's in music education and then stayed on to complete a master's degree in Asian studies with a focus on the plight and hardships for Asian women in history. It was during her undergraduate time that she met her future husband Michael where they bonded over the love of classical music with taking several music classes together.

After completing her master's degree, she moved up to Rochester, Minnesota to join Michael where he was attending the Mayo Clinic for medical school and then later residency. During that time Nien-Wei took on the challenge of working for a battered women's shelter and as a battered women's advocate for Asian minorities.

Nien-Wei and Michael were married in a hybrid traditional and Chinese style wedding in June of 1994. It was during their honeymoon that they first spent time in Vancouver, WA to experience the beauty of the Pacific Northwest. She proudly became a U.S. Citizen on July 09, 1997 knowing she wanted to live in

the U.S. for the rest of her life.

After Michael graduated from his family medicine residency program, they both went on the adventure to work on the island of Guam. During their time on Guam they were able to make several lifelong friends and also travel to many places in Asia and the surrounding islands. She also learned how to be an excellent barista and started learning how to be a strong fundraiser and advocate for several non-profit organizations.

However, it was not until 2001 when they moved to Vancouver that Nien-Wei first figured out what she wanted to do in life. After being mentored by some exceptional directors for the Mary Kay skincare world, she became a Mary Kay consultant and then director and managed to build a more unique independent business where she could both serve and advocate for women. While the care of family was always paramount, she also relished the opportunities to help several non-profit organizations in multiple ways as a donor, a fundraiser, and as an on-the-ground worker. Most close to her heart included the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, West Gorge Humane Society, Clark College, PeaceHealth Foundation, Oregon Public Broadcasting, All Classical Radio, and the Ovarian Cancer Alliance in addition to several others. Nien-Wei was diagnosed with a rare form of ovarian cancer in November of 2021. She was gifted outstanding medical and oncology care here in the community. She was also blessed with an incredible group of friends and family to support her cancer journey, and we hope left this world with only love in her heart.

Nien-Wei is most fondly remembered for her spirit of giving, infectious laugh, indomitable essence, gourmet cooking skills, love of music, love of singing, love for her husband Michael and family, and great love for people, monkeys, red pandas, and of course dogs including her beloved pet Tux.

She is survived by her husband of 31 years Dr. Michael C. Liu, mother Pei-Huan Hsiao, brother I-Li Hsiao, in-laws Leonard and Betsy Liu, and sister-in-law Linda Pizzato and her family, as well as several family members in Taiwan and elsewhere in the U.S. We will miss Nien-Wei but always have her in our

hearts.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Nein-Wei was a treasure! Always smiling, laughing, and being a bright spot in the world. She was one of the most purely beautiful souls I've had the pleasure of being friends with. There are no words to express this loss...*



Beija Brindley-bagent - June 02, 2025 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *I was so blessed to have Nien as a friend and Mary Kay consultant. I moved to Vancouver not knowing anyone and through our pets and living across the street from her parents, she welcomed me into the neighborhood and made me feel at home. My thoughts and prayers go out to her entire family. May God provide peace and strength for all.*

Kelli Ryan - May 26, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ *I first met Nien-Wei over the phone as her insurance agent. We quickly connected and I found out she was a Mary Kay Representative. When she came to my home, brought treats for my sweet yellow lab, Bella. Nien-Wei did not seem to mind all of the love Bella gave her. I knew Nien-Wei for a short time and she has left a wonderful place in my heart. I only wish I could have known her longer. She was an absolutely wonderful person. I miss her. My heart-felt condolences to you Michael and the rest of her family.*

Jeanette Black - May 19, 2025 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I have known Nien Wei and Michael Liu for a long time. Nien Wei was a breath of fresh air, the sunlight on a cloudy day and much much more. The earth has lost an amazing lady who loved and lived life to the fullest. Rest my dear friend. Love you.

Joanna Smith - May 17, 2025 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Nien-Wei will remain in our hearts forever.

Di Lu and Lihua Sun and family - May 15, 2025 at 12:00 AM

OL

“ Nien Wei, I will remember you as a ray of sunshine!!

Olga - March 21, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ I have been a customer of Nien-Wie's for almost 2 decades. We met at a women's business lunch and met up a couple of times. Once I moved to Florida, she made an effort to stay in touch, and so we'd talk 2-3 times a year for years. As a businesswoman, she was impressive and persistent. She was also incredibly friendly, bubbly, and kind. I will miss her. My heart goes out to her husband, family, and friends.



Andrea - March 10, 2025 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ My kids and I will never forget Nien-Wei, a dear friend whose smile and positive attitude could light up any room. Along with her husband and dear friend Michael, and my late wife Rosie, I remember our travel experiences fondly, savoring bouillabaisse in the south of France, negotiating Batik bags in Bali as a team, as well as other relaxing times in Paris, Florida, Hawaii and more. I'm sure that everybody who ever met her will miss her laughter and warmth, and after all that she had to endure till the end, I hope that she is in a better place now. We love you ! ❤️

MaxP - March 06, 2025 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Evergreen Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Funeral Chapel and Crematory

A Memorial Tree was planted for Nien-Wei Hsiao - March 05, 2025 at 12:00 AM