

In Memoriam: Obituary for Gong Shim An Mayr

Mereth Van Frank Huemer
December 10, 2023



Born: Jeju Do Korea November 6, 1930

Died: Albany, NY December 4, 2023

Gong Shim An was born in 1930 on JeJu Island in Korea. She was the eldest of 5 children.

Somehow, her parents escaped to Japan during the Korean War, but she was left behind to care for her younger siblings. She taught school while carrying her youngest sibling on her back. At one point the communists rounded up all of the teachers for execution, but she was very ill in bed and the communists left her so she escaped being executed by them.

Her parents and later, she, were instrumental in establishing 'Mindan' in Japan. (Mindan is an organization for Koreans living in Japan who supported the south during the Korean War.)

As a member of the Japanese Unification Movement, she did a lot of 'Korean to Japanese' Translation. She was also known as an excellent Korean teacher. She taught our second generation children how to say My Pledge in Korean.

Gong Shim received the Blessing in October 1982 with a German brother, Max Mayr. They were able to receive an offering child, Cheon Gueon (Johnny) in 1990. They moved to Westport, New York in 1995 as Max's health situation needed the fresh air of the Adirondack Mountains. Sadly, Max died in 2001.

Gong Shim moved to Albany, NY in 2008 when her son, Johnny started college. She was supportive of the local Church for many years until her health made a turn for the worse. Johnny, a member of the US Air Force had moved to New Jersey to be available to visit his mom. She died at home, in Albany, on December 4, 2023.

Gong Shim was very generous and she often filled her backpack with goodies to share at Sunday Service. Her favorite, and ours, was her special recipe for Ginger honey lemon tea.