

Marie-France Dougherty (1951-2013)

Francis Dougherty

June 28, 2013



Marie-France Dougherty

Marie France's Sunghwa Ceremony will be held this Saturday 29th at 11:30 am at the Burnett-White Funeral Home in Red Hook, NY. For directions, or to sign the online guest book, please visit www.Burnett-White.com. Flowers may be ordered locally at www.flowersbymaria.net. The Won Jeon Ceremony will be at the Red Church Cemetery in Tivoli followed by a reception at the Dougherty home at 71 Montgomery St. in Tivoli.

Marie-France Germain Dougherty, amiably called Marie by her closest compatriots, passed peacefully in the presence of her beloved husband, eldest son, and dear friend. Towards the end of a year and a half battle with cancer, an infection ushered her beyond the final threshold into eternity at the Kingston Hospital. Her last breaths were the tokens of a peaceful going and a great legacy.

Marie, my mother, or Ma as I like to say, was and is a member of the Unification Church, commonly known throughout the valley by its seminary in Barrytown. During her ordeal, many of its congregants and friends visited. They stopped by for tea, knitting, and literature—that thing women like to create and experience in the florescence of talk. It touched on all themes of life, from the pedestrian to the profound. Some were benefactors of her passion for scarves, hats, and baby-clothes. Many were moved by her insights into life. All were touched by her cheerful, vital spirit. During the most difficult and taxing period of her care, these visits turned into opportunities for foot-massages. Comforting her with his voice, my father devoted much of this time to reading from their newly acquired taste for pop-fiction: *Game of Thrones*.

Born February 19, 1951, in Paris, France, she is the daughter of Marie Theresa Van Hoke, whom she and we had the pleasure of spending our winter with, in the salty territory of La Tremblade, France. My mother, Ma, married Dad, James H. Dougherty, known to many as Jim, on July 1, 1982, in Madison Square Garden, NY, NY. My three older siblings, Patrick, Lynn, Eric, myself, and my dad continue to live in the home nurtured by this marriage. My mother's sister, native of Belgium, Michele Germain, survives her.

My mother had a keen spiritual sensibility buttressed by a simple hard-working sense. After a spiritual journey that brought her to the states, the arms of my father, and the responsibility of raising four children, she returned to school and earned her bachelors in her fifties. She worked long hours standing in the hot sun to sell sunglasses for UV3 in Modena along the throughway. Occasioned by delightful encounters with French speaking Canadians, her work supported her family. Her spirituality consisted of group healing accompanied by activities such as Labyrinth walks, the bud of which sprouted in Barrytown's very own on the UTS property. Its branches spread into the maturity of her children and richness of her friends.