



## Jennie Ong Grupp

July 10, 1950 - January 13, 2017

Jennie Ong Grupp, 66, long-time resident of Fort Payne, passed away Friday, January 13, 2017 at Huntsville Hospital.

Born July 10, 1950 in Singapore, Jennie was later educated in office administration and cooking. In the 1960's, she was part of Singapore's industrial boom after independence, working for Texas Instruments training workers to build semiconductors. Later in the 1970's, she hosted international travelers from the front desk of the, still-esteemed, Raffles Hotel in Singapore.

It was November 2, 1976 when Jennie arrived in the U.S.A., arriving first in New York City and finally Fort Payne which she made her home. There she married the late Leonard C. Williams and together they managed their local motel and restaurant. Over the years, she continued working in the culinary arts. Later in life, she enjoyed serving the First United Methodist Church as caregiver of the Church's youngest.

Jennie is remembered as being active and high-spirited, with a personality and will that exceeded her petite stature. She loved preparing delicious culinary creations for others to enjoy, as this was one of the ways she expressed her affection. She was a lover of nature, had a natural "green thumb" in the garden and could grow any flower, plant, or seed. She was a skilled craftswoman, painting figurines and creating room decorations for her two children, Jonathan and Valerie, when they were young. Most of all, though, Jennie lovingly cherished her children, and took great pride in all their successes.

She is preceded in death by her parents Gian Ah Lek and Ong Yee Mui; and brother Ong Choon Tip. Jennie leaves behind her children, Jonathan Grupp of Huntsville and Valerie Grupp of Pennsylvania; siblings, Rosalin Ong Choon Mui, Ong Choon Chye and Ong Choon Huat of Singapore; and many nieces and nephews of Singapore.

A Celebration of Life Memorial will be held at First United Methodist Church in Fort Payne, Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. followed immediately by a meal for family and

friends in Cobble Hall. Online tributes may be left at [www.wilsonfhinc.com](http://www.wilsonfhinc.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JAN **29**. 3:00 AM (CT)

First Methodist Church - Fort Payne  
206 Grand Avenue NW  
Fort Payne, AL 35967

# Tribute Wall



“ *Jennie Ong Grupp*

January 12, 2023 at 10:45 AM



“ *Dear Valarie, Jonathan, We are so saddened by your loss. I pray this will bring a smile to your hearts.*

*In 1986 we moved to Fort Payne and I was blessed to have Jennie as my neighbor. Having children, the same age we shared many fun times together; there was laughter, children playing, cookie swaps and swimming! Throughout the years, I saw Jennie as a very strong, intelligent lady, full of life. But most importantly I saw a very devoted Mother to Jonathan and Valerie. Anyone who knew Jennie will attest to the fact that her children came first. When both our oldest were in college, I was sending can goods and packaged foods, while Jennie was smoking salmon and cooking fresh foods for hers. I knew I couldn't compete with her culinary talent. I learned a lot from Jennie in our talks, she was a survivor, a renaissance type. Jennie could make a sad day sunny.*

*Jonathan and Valerie you are strong, vibrant, loving and caring adults. You both have fulfilled the desires of Jennie's heart and I know she will forever live through you. Go now live life, love others and reflect your sweet Mother.*

Myra Austin - January 28, 2017 at 01:39 PM



*Thank you very much for your kind words and bringing back some of these fond memories. Sincerely, Valerie*

Valerie Grupp - January 31, 2017 at 06:17 PM

MA

“ In 1986 we moved to Fort Payne and I was blessed to have Jennie as my neighbor. Having children, the same age we shared many fun times together; there was laughter, children playing, cookie swaps and swimming! Throughout the years, I saw Jennie as a very strong, intelligent lady, full of life. But most importantly I saw a very devoted Mother to Jonathan and Valerie. Anyone who knew Jennie will attest to the fact that her children came first. When both our oldest were in college, I was sending can goods and packaged foods, while Jennie was smoking salmon and cooking fresh foods for hers. I knew I couldn't compete with her culinary talent. I learned a lot from Jennie in our talks, she was a survivor, a renaissance type. Jennie could make a sad day sunny. Jonathan and Valerie you are strong, vibrant, loving and caring adults. You both have fulfilled the desires of Jennie's heart and I know she will forever live through you. Go now live life, love others and reflect your sweet Mother.  
Love and Peace to your family,  
Myra Austin

Myra Austin - January 27, 2017 at 02:22 PM

OD

“ Ong Family: Joanna, Stephen, James, Maureen, Diana purchased the Glorious Memories Garland for the family of Jennie Ong Grupp.



Ong Family: Joanna, Stephen, James, Maureen, Diana - January 27, 2017 at 04:07 AM

JO

“ Dear Valerie and Jonathan,

I am saddened by the loss of your mum and our beloved aunt Jennie. She was a wonderful aunt that we always missed since we were young. We will pray for her and I am sure she will rest in peace in the good hands of God. She will always be remembered by all of us. Take care.

Joanna Ong

Joanna ong - January 27, 2017 at 03:25 AM

VG

Thank you very much Joanna. She loved you all, even though there was an ocean between. Sincerely, Valerie

Valerie Grupp - January 31, 2017 at 06:20 PM

KO

“ Dear Valerie and Jonathan, I'm so sorry for your loss. And I wish you peace, grace, and comfort at this time. May she rest in perfect peace.

Kunle Owolabi - January 25, 2017 at 07:33 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jennie Ong Grupp.



January 24, 2017 at 11:13 PM

TA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Theo Arapis - January 24, 2017 at 07:21 PM

“ Those of you who know Jennie, I am sure you are well aware off her love and passion for home cooked food. I still remember the smell of Jennie’s eggrolls and steam buns, fried rice and lo mein. Yes, she had cooked all these for me when Valerie, my girlfriend back then and wife now, first took me to Fort Payne to meet Jennie. To be honest I was not excited at all when the garage door opened and the smell of Chinese food overpowered the crisp Fort Payne air. And when I got into Jennie’s kitchen and spotted the mountain of eggrolls waiting to be eaten I was somewhat intimidated. You see growing up in a little Greek town I did not have the luck to taste and enjoy authentic Chinese food. But all this fear about food with weird looking veggies and strange colored sauces suddenly vanished when I tried Jennie’s Chinese food.

*My relationship with Jennie developed at the kitchen table. My morning coffee would soon be accompanied by eggrolls and vegetable fried rice. While enjoying my “Chinese inspired” breakfast Jennie would share stories from her time growing up in Singapore. Then I soon realized how common Jennie and I were... both of us proud of our origins, our culture, and tradition.*

*While Jennie was at the hospital Jonathan told Valerie what Jennie thought of me. I knew we had built a good and genuine relationship, but I had no clue that Jennie thought so highly off me. My love to Valerie, my jokes and Greek outgoing behavior, and big appetite were some of the things that made her happy. She was also very proud of who I have become, because she knew being an immigrant is not always fun or easy in this country.*

*Jennie I know you are still looking at us. I will continue to make you happy by eating Chinese food, learning about the Asian culture, loving and taking care of Valerie, and working hard to make meaningful contributions to this world that is in so much need of people as ethical as you.*

*Your son in law,*

*Theo.*



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**Theo Arapis** - January 24, 2017 at 07:13 PM

MB

“ Jonathan and Valerie,  
Our family was very sorry to hear about the passing of your dear mom. Jennie was a rare GEM one never forgotten.....She was a true blessing to our family while at FUMC. She played a very important roll in the lives of our 2 young children Melissa and Brock. We always felt peace while our kids were in here care and they never wanted to go home when church was over. She taught them many life lessons and told of many stories growing up. When she found out we were moving from Fort Payne in July of 2012 she made sure to come and find us give us all a proper hug and shed a few tears. Our family was BLESSED in so many ways by her sweet spirit and example.  
Our thoughts and Prayers are with you both. May God wrap his loving arms around you both. Much Love the Balvin's Russ, Marci, Melissa & Brock Balvin

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**Marci Balvin** - January 23, 2017 at 05:06 PM

VG

Marci, thanks for sharing this, it pleases my heart that my mom could be a part of your and your children's lives. I know she missed you all after moving. Warm regards,  
Valerie and Jonathan Grupp

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**Valerie Grupp** - January 25, 2017 at 06:24 AM

WP

“ Jonathan and Valerie, I was so saddened by your mom's passing. Jennie was always helping someone, or cooking, or doing something for others. She was a good neighbor to my parents who lived next door. Dad helped clean roughs and small chores. She was a great help when you were in my first grade class, Jonathan, and was always so very proud of her children. She worked very hard for both of you. She will not be forgotten! Wilma Playford

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**Wilma Fischer Playford** - January 23, 2017 at 04:42 PM

VG

Thank you, Mrs. Playford, she always enjoyed your parents' company and remembered you as being a very good teacher to Jonathan. With warm regards,  
Valerie and Jonathan Grupp

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**Valerie Grupp** - January 25, 2017 at 06:27 AM

 Lois V  
Anthony

“ I will miss "Jennie". I have fond memories of our talks prior to early service. She was a very sweet woman. She was well loved in the church. Condolences to all of the family. Lois Anthony

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**Lois V Anthony** - January 23, 2017 at 03:31 PM

VG

*Thank you, Lois. Regards, Valerie Grupp*

Valerie Grupp - January 23, 2017 at 08:11 PM

VG

*Thank you, Lois. The church was a big part of her life and she appreciated her church family. Warm regards, Valerie Grupp*

Valerie Grupp - January 23, 2017 at 08:13 PM

DH

*I'm sorry for your loss. I've known her since Reeve's Restaurant, way before your time. She was loved, and she adored y'all. Jennie will be missed. Hugs ♡*

Dona Horton - January 24, 2017 at 07:19 AM

BO

*“ I am sorry for your loss. I have great memories about your mother from swim team. She was a great volunteer and a wonderful cheerleader for you and the team.*

Betsy ODell - January 23, 2017 at 02:06 PM

VG

*Thank you, Betsy, my mom cheering at the swim meets is one of the most distinct memories from my youth.*

Valerie Grupp - January 24, 2017 at 06:30 PM

MN

*“ Jonathan and Valerie...Jennie was such a unique person and I am so sad to hear of her passing. She worked hard for all she had in life and she loved the two of you so much! Jennie was the nursery worker while my husband Robert and I were on staff at FUMC Fort Payne. She kept our two girls, Caroline and Abigail, in line! Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. I am so saddened by this news....*

marianne norris - January 23, 2017 at 01:59 PM

DG

*Jonathan and Valerie, I was saddened by the news of your mothers passing. Please know we Gambles have you both in our prayers. Oh the memories we have with all of us st swim meets. Your mom and I worked on several events together creating food to be enjoyed by many. She was a beautiful lady and always had a smile on her face. Jennie loved you both very much and I pray you are comforted in knowing she would have done anything to see both of you succeed. You were loved by her endlessly! May the Grace of God surround you both and give you peace. We love you both and will continue praying for you through this very difficult time in your lives.  
Randy, Debbie, Charles Gamble and Allison Templeton*

Debbie Gamble - January 23, 2017 at 04:50 PM

VG

*Thank you all, I can remember those days when you were both working together. I appreciate your sharing these memories. Valerie Grupp*

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**Valerie Grupp** - January 24, 2017 at 06:32 PM