



SETO, June (1966)

June Seto of Vancouver died on September 12, 2020 after ten years of stubbornly resisting successive attacks by three different kinds of breast cancer. She was 72. June was born in Victoria to Jimmy and Susie Seto, Chinese immigrants fleeing war and famine. Growing up, June struggled to reconcile her family's traditional ideals of harmony and filial piety with her Canadian values of equality and individualism. She

moved out of the family home to live independently shortly after her 20th birthday in the late 60's - something young Chinese women seldom did back then - and spent the rest of her life navigating the tension between her family's expectations and her own aspirations. She would fiercely declare that she was "not a typical Chinese woman."

Active and restless, June held many different jobs, pursued many hobbies and lived in numerous apartments before meeting Rick Archambault in a dance class at the Vancouver YMCA in 1988. They both saw themselves as non-traditional. Nevertheless, they decided they might as well get married "since we're going to spend the rest of our lives together anyway!" June was over forty on her wedding-day, and her parents were so relieved she'd finally done the traditional thing that they were willing to accept she was marrying a white guy. Soon after they moved into their home in Strathcona in 1992, their daughter Maya was born, just after June's forty-fourth birthday. Being a mother was the most important thing in her life, and she and Rick brought Maya up well and are very proud of her. For much of her working life, June was a secretary to lawyers who (mostly, anyway) valued her meticulous, detail-oriented perfectionism, and her willingness to stay at the office as long as it took to get the job done (not without grumbling, though). Hopefully, those lawyers appreciated June's defining characteristics of perseverance and putting other people's needs before her own.

June made many good and true friends over the years, but she had trouble following through and staying in touch. She left a lot of good people behind, even though she was always going to reply to their cards and phone calls and emails. You know who you are, and your friendship was much appreciated. Besides Rick, Maya, and the mostly left-behind friends, June is survived by her younger brother Jack, her sister-in-law Helen, and her much-loved nieces Jade and Jasmine and nephew Harry. Her baby brother Jerry and her father and (very recently) her mother died before her. June managed to outlast her mother so she wouldn't bring her any more grief. June's ashes will be sprinkled in locations stretching from Hawaii to England, and we'll have a party for her after a COVID vaccine enables us to get together.

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