



# Grace Kinuyo Canfield

JUL 6, 1944 - APR 22, 2017



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CHAPEL  
OF THE  
CHIMES  
OAKLAND

Funeral, Cemetery  
& Cremation Services

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# Grace Kinuyo Canfield

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**G**race Kinuyo Canfield, dancer, teacher, caretaker, and lover of all people, died on Saturday April 22nd, 2017, at the age of 72. She had many gifts and interests, including an intuitive understanding and appreciation of people (especially children), languages (including French, Japanese, Russian, Italian, and Portuguese), and dance in all of its expressive forms.

Born Grace Kinuyo Tani on July 6, 1944, in Woodbine, Georgia, she was the daughter of Jin Shinobu Tani and Tamayo Shiromoto Tani. Jin and Tamayo were born US citizens but had been raised in Japan. When Grace was born, Jin and Tamayo were working on a lettuce farm owned by other Japanese-Americans, having been recently released from Minidoka Japanese internment camp in Idaho (one of many Japanese internment camps of World War II). Not being fluent in English, they made poverty wages in Georgia and returned to California empty-handed, save for their new baby girl, Grace, and her older sister, Nancy.

Grace grew up in Oakland, California with both parents and four siblings, Nancy, Art, Alice, and Ernie. Despite her towering 4' 9 ¾" stature, Grace became a beautiful ballet and modern dancer, performing all the way into her late 40s with the exciting, funny, and quirky Nouveau Dance Troupe. As a college student, her interest in a career in ballet and maintaining her studies were often in conflict. After she abandoned her professional dance aspirations, it seemed like a natural fit for her to pursue a career as a primary school teacher. She was an A student and studied French and Italian at UC Berkeley, where she also earned her teaching credential. She taught elementary school in San Francisco, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Grace married Andrew Jay Canfield on August 15, 1971, and through his work as a software engineer they spent time traveling the world. They lived for varying amounts of time in Indonesia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Portugal, and Saudi Arabia. With him she gave the gift of life to two children, Heather Tani Canfield and



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Christopher Leonard Canfield. She left teaching in 1976 to become a full time mother, though she continued to teach through volunteering at Fairwood and Lakewood Elementary Schools.

Grace taught both her children how to read and write before kindergarten. But more importantly, she taught them how to think for themselves and how to be generous and compassionate. She was a mother, not just to her biological children, but to the entire neighborhood. Her unconditional loving kindness, generosity of spirit, and after school “snackoes” were the stuff of legends. Parents looking for their children would come to Grace’s house, knowing she was feeding and tending to them.

After a difficult divorce in the late 1980s, Grace bounced back, determined to regain financial independence and stability. She became a security guard for Pinkerton at Intel, soon running the Badge and Key office for Intel’s Santa Clara Headquarters, which she did for over 25 years. It was through that job that she put two kids through college, paying tuition, fees, and housing by working 12 hour shifts. During years when they approved overtime, she had more to give her family. Other years, she did the overtime anyway, without compensation, for the sake of the office. She worked for herself and her family. But she also worked because Intel was her home, her other family, and because she enjoyed the work and the people so much.

Grace always said she didn’t see herself retiring. And indeed she worked all the way up to the day before her first cancer-related hospital stay, a surgery in January of 2017. She hoped to return to the office once chemo had removed the esophageal cancer from her system. She fought the cancer with everything she had, but the tumor was too aggressive. She succumbed to it peacefully on Saturday, April 22, in her home of 40 years, surrounded by her children.

She is preceded in death by her generous and loving parents and her brother, Art. She is survived by her children, Heather and Chris; their partners, David “Eto” Davis and Laura Canfield; and her two sisters; one brother; two siblings-in-law; five nieces and nephews; their partners; and three grand-nieces; in addition to a small group of others who are and will always be family (you know who you are).

Her remains will be placed in the Chapel of Light within the Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland, California, where she performed piano recitals as a child. Her impact is



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shared amongst all who met her.

Instead of flowers, Grace would request that you feed someone you love.



## Tribute Wall

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JD

**Joe Dawson** posted:

I will always love you, Grace. Jan 17, 2019

January 17 at 2:15 PM

MS

**Mary Scott** posted:

Lit a candle in memory of Grace Kinuyo Canfield

May 14 at 6:41 AM

CM

**Char Marble** posted:

I was so shocked and very sad to hear of Grace's passing. Grace was a very kind, beautiful person, she was always smiling. My deepest condolences to Grace's family and friends. My prayers are with you Bless you all. Char Marble

May 12 at 1:06 PM

EC

**Ellie Cave** posted:

I am deeply sorry for the loss of such a shining light as Grace was. She loved people and it showed in all she did. I will miss her lovely smile and gracious manner. May you be comforted to know she was cherished and will be missed by all. – Ellie Cave

May 12 at 9:41 AM

AR

**Alison Richards** posted:

My deepest sympathies to Grace's family and children in this difficult time. Grace was always a pleasure to work with and very friendly in the halls of Intel. She had a fun, gentle presence of creativity and wisdom amongst the engineers of Intel. We will miss her lovely smile. Alison Richards

May 12 at 7:55 AM

MO

**Mark Olson** posted:

Grace was always extremely kind and helpful whenever I saw her, be it in Badge & ID or anywhere around the company. I am so sorry to hear of your loss. She will be missed.

May 12 at 6:30 AM



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JR

**John Raftrey** posted:

Grace was the first person most Intel visitors interacted with when visiting headquarters. She was gracious, helpful and professional. She definitely made my professional life easier and more fun. John Raftrey

May 12 at 6:28 AM

BL

**Bob Lawson** posted:

I was so sorry to hear of Grace's passing...Grace was one of the positives at Intel and was always in a happy mood that transferred to everyone she came in contact with. She will definitely be missed. My sincere condolences go out to her family and friends. Bob Lawson

May 11 at 4:32 PM

RR

**Rick Reed** posted:

Widely known and much-loved by all @ Intel, Grace was one of those rare co-workers who you could always count on to really see you, not just say hi as she passed by in the hallway, but I always felt like she'd really seen me with each and every contact I had with her over our nearly 20 years of working together. Someone said today that Grace worked at Intel for 26 years and never missed a single day – wow. I was surprised and saddened when I learned of her passing today. I will miss her warm smile (look at that photo), kind heart, and whip-smart mind. What a rare combination, and one that she shared so freely with us all. I'll always hold her in the highest esteem and in the warmest place in my heart. My prayers and condolences are with Grace's family and friends. I'm sorry I never got to know her family, but I know her Intel friends are many. Peace. Rick Reed

May 11 at 10:08 AM

GB

**Geoff Beckstrom** posted:

Grace was like a second mom to me. She opened her home and her heart to everyone in the neighborhood and gave me shelter when I needed it the most. Thank you Grace, you will be missed.

April 30 at 3:59 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Grace by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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