

We Love Lucy... Remembering Lucy Chang

by *Alicia La Fetra*

After a valiant and courageous battle which lasted almost two years, Lucy Chang succumbed to cancer in February. The folk dance community lost a much-loved and well-respected member who did so much and was an inspiration to all.

Lucy was a Past President of Folk Dance Federation. She was instrumental in organizing the annual Officers Ball, served on various Federation committees, and headed the Moveable Feet dance club which hosted parties and workshops throughout the year. These events usually featured well-known and popular master teachers and were always well attended.

With disbelief and sorrow, some of Lucy's many friends have shared their thoughts:

"So sad that Lucy is gone, but so happy that she was here."

"She will always be with us when we dance."

"Wisdom, power, grace."

"...a force for good."

"Lucy is a true angel and will always be. She did so much to help foster dance and inspire our community to join in dance. She showed amazing courage and stamina until the end..."

"Lucy Chang was a bright light and an amazing person whose struggle never let her spirits down."

"She was an active and bright light in all of our lives and we will miss her greatly."

Dancers also shared some of their memories of Lucy:

"Lucy was a great gift to our dance community. She gave so much of her time and talents, even when her time was running out. She had the forethought to leave Moveable Feet a year's worth of dates, venues, themes, and MCs -- what a legacy!"

"...such a cheerful, positive, enthusiastic lady, and so gracious. Lucy had such a variety of interests and was so accomplished. I don't think any of us, outside of her family, realized how many facets the jewel that was Lucy truly had. The world is a little dimmer because of the absence of her light."

"Everyone knew Lucy as the strong, creative, well-organized go-getter who was the force behind the Moveable Feet events that have become so popular. There was a less obvious, softer, sensitive side of Lucy, whose feelings were easily hurt, and who cared a great deal about people, animals, the planet, the arts, and of course, dance. Lucy will be remembered with great appreciation for her tremendous contributions to the folk dance community and will be missed for the bright, caring, sensitive, socially conscious person that she was. RIP, our red-booted friend."

"When I think of Lucy, I remember more than the words she spoke. I remember the example for living that she set. I think of her courage and strength in the face of what were insurmountable odds, of her open and frank discussions of her condition and her ability to think beyond herself and to be interested in others, their stories, their lives. To remain a giving and caring person. She is a model for us all."

"I first met Lucy and Richard in Menlo Park many years ago. They were dancing with Marcel's group on Tuesday evenings and I was dancing with the Palomanians in the next room on the same nights. The two groups had been combined, occasionally for a few dances, and I immediately noticed Lucy, admiring her enthusiasm and excellent dancing. As time went on, we became friends and shared our dancing addiction. In addition to dancing together frequently in the Bay Area, both Lucy and Richard came down to Solvang over several years to Danish Days in September, for very full weekends of folk dancing, in the street. People thought we were entertaining the tourists, which we probably were, but in reality, we were the ones rewarded the most with our enjoyment of dancing together. It was always such a memorable pleasure to dance with her. We will miss her greatly."

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Lucy Chang with husband, Richard Graham, at the 2019-2020 New Year's Eve Party hosted by the Moveable Feet Club. *Photo by L. Tucker.*

WE LOVE LUCY (*continued*)

Lucy was always a doer and this dancer's memory is just one example of that:

“ ‘What do you think about me organizing a couples workshop?’ The breakfast table was set with berries, brie, eggs, and other culinary delights. Lucy and Richard hosted me many times in their home, and we had great conversations over amazing breakfast fare. That day, I said, “Yes, do it!” – and she did.”

We will remember Lucy as an accomplished folk dancer who was proficient in a wide variety of international folk dances -- Scottish, Balkan, Hungarian, Scandinavian, and many others. She not only taught the steps to dances -- she also made sure to teach their correct styling as well. She paid great attention to detail which was appreciated by fellow dancers as evidenced by the following comments:

“We'll all be dancing with you in our hearts, Lucy, and trying to keep up to your standards!”

“I was thinking when I go to Statewide, she would be one of a few dancers I'd love to watch when they dance.”

Lucy had a way of making everyone feel like family. A few years ago, she started referring to me as MM – short for Mei Mei, which means “younger sister” in Chinese. So I asked her what the Chinese word was for “older sister” and she told me that it was Jie Jie. From then on, we always called each other by those names.

We will all greatly miss Lucy and our hearts go out to Richard, her husband and dance partner, and to their daughters, Alex and Sam.

Dear Lucy, you inspired us all and we are reminded of Irving Berlin's quote – “The song is ended, but the melody lingers on.” Rest in peace.

Honoring Lucy's wishes, her family and the Moveable Feet Club will be holding a dance event in celebration of Lucy's life on a date to be determined.