



Tom Wen Dong Yan

October 14, 2024

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Tom Wen Dong Yan 嚴文東, devoted husband to Winnie X. Yan 項薇剛, cherished father to Audrey Yan 嚴慈恩 and Andrew Yan 嚴慈慕, and a beloved brother to Wen Ray Yan 嚴文瑞 and Wen Ling Yan 嚴文齡. Tom was also a filial son, dear uncle, brother-in-law, cousin, and a loyal friend to many.

Tom passed away unexpectedly from a sudden cardiac arrest at the age of 70 on October 14th, 2024, at 5:26 PM at St. Francis Hospital in Port Washington, Long Island. He was known for his warmth and lighthearted nature. His love, strength, and wisdom touched every aspect of our lives, leaving behind a legacy that will forever live in our hearts.

Tom was born on April 8th, 1954, in Shanghai, China, to the late George Ren-An Yan 嚴仁安, a connoisseur of Peking Opera (Jing Ju) and a distinguished Peking Opera musician, and the late Amy Shen Yan 沈靄美, a loving homemaker known for her gourmet cuisine talent. Tom was the great-great grandson of Yan Xin Hou 嚴信厚 (aka Yan Xiao Fang 嚴筱舫), a renowned industrialist and banker in China's late Qing Dynasty. Tom was the great grandson of Yan Yi Bin 嚴義彬 (aka Yan Zi Jun 嚴子均), a capitalist and philanthropist in modern China. Tom was the grandson of Yan Zhi-Duo (aka Yan Zhu-San 严祝三), the eldest son and an heir (prior to 1949) to the Yan Family (aka the Yen Family).

Before Tom came to America, he worked at a research lab in Shanghai's Rui-Jin Hospital (瑞金医院, named Guang-Ci Hospital 广慈医院 before 1967). In 1986, Tom came to America to be reunited with his family in New York. Tom was later introduced to his future wife Winnie through a mutual friend, and they married in San Francisco, California in 1994. Tom unearthed a passion for attending antique auctions and was always on the hunt for unique and valuable treasures; he had a keen eye for genuine items of value. He was respected for his knowledge in antique authentication and his advice was highly valued. Tom was cherished within his community of antique enthusiasts.

Tom's expertise and passion for antique works of art were no accident. Tom had the fortune of being exposed to many authentic and quality Chinese works of art at a young age through his family. Tom practiced Chinese calligraphy at the age of 8 and excelled in the calligraphy style of "Li-Shu" 隶书. He loved and learned the art of Seal Carving and Engraving at a young age and became very good at it. Tom went on to develop his curiosity for art collectibles into a rich knowledge and passion for nearly 40 years in the U.S.

Tom was the central hub for his family, close relatives, and loyal friends. He had a generous heart and brought tremendous joy to his wife, children, his brother and sister, nieces, nephews, elders, cousins, friends and neighbors. His boundless hospitality was contagious to friends and family. His sense of humor made others feel comfortable, seen, and heard around him. Despite being constantly on the move, he was never too busy for a loved one and would readily drop everything to offer his support for those who needed it. He expressed his love through his incredible cooking, heartfelt advice, and generosity. Tom's unconditional love and dedication touched all of us in many special ways.

Our hearts are heavy with grief as we cope with the loss of such a vibrant and loving presence. We are comforted knowing that Tom had a loving family and lived a happy life in America. Tom's memory will continue to live on in our hearts, always and forever.

Tom's funeral service was held on Saturday, October 26th, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Long Island's Roslyn Heights Funeral Home.

Thoughts and memories for Tom Wen Dong Yan are welcome. You may share them on this platform's Share a Memory section, or send them (any photos) to: wenlingyen@outlook.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **26**. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Roslyn Heights Funeral Home
75 Mineola Ave
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577
(516) 621-4545
roslynheightsfh@gmail.com
<https://RoslynHeightsFH.com>

Tribute Wall

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“ With sadden heart, news of Tom's passing was recently shared with me by one of my customers. I knew Tom from my estate sales business, which Tom would occasionally frequent. Tom was a collector of fine things, and brightened up my sales with his delightful personality. Sometimes Tom would just come to browse, but he was always welcomed. Tom generously assisted me (along with my contemporaries) with translating Chinese characters on artwork and porcelains, sometimes providing the items market value. I recall Tom proudly speaking of his daughter attending medical school, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends. Tom will be dearly missed. God now has this good man.



Cynthia Illicete-Burns - May 04, 2025 at 09:03 AM

“深切怀念我们的老同学严文东先生：

惊闻文东老同学突然离世，我们内心的震惊和悲痛难以言表。他不仅是我们的同学，更是我们的一位挚友、弟兄。文东对待亲朋好友总是那么热心，真诚，关怀备至。无论谁遇到困难，他总是想方设法地伸出援手。就拿文东先生关心JIANQIU的女儿，他是用心照顾，如同亲人一般。他对JIANQIU女儿不仅在生活中关心她，还聆听她在生活中烦恼，文东用智慧为她打开心结，这样的情义，让JIANQIU全家铭记于心。

文东挚友对主的信仰深深地影响着我们，他爱神，敬主将基督徒的爱流露在每一个生活的细节中，每当他打电话问候时，不仅为我们带来了温暖，也让我们感受到来自信仰的力量。他的关怀与善意，让人不禁反思生命的意义，也更加珍惜与他共度的时光。

文东先生的离去，让我们感到生命的无常，但也让我们想起《圣经》中主耶稣的应许：“复活在我，生命也在我；信我的人，虽然死了，也必复活。”尊敬的文东挚友，弟兄虽然您离开了我们，但您的爱、您的笑容、您的善行将永远铭刻在我们的心中。愿主将严文东先生永远安置在您的怀抱中。我们永远怀念您！感谢主，阿门！同学：芷君 高怡 张太（吴斌雯） 剑秋

2025 1 3

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“我是Simon 宣，小名叫贝贝，所以小弟叔叔就一直这样叫我。

我妈姓陈，陈家和严家是世交。所以我们在上海的时候就这样称呼。我爸妈以前常去严家做客，我当时就是十几岁的小孩子，有不少记忆。

我记得最深刻的就是他穿着网球装来我外婆家做客，我那时候还是高中大学的时候。觉得他蛮新潮的。自信而且自豪，特别的对家族的荣耀。

到美国后，我又在东海岸，就有机会来纽约玩的机会来拜访。我在2008向我太太Jenny求婚的时候就是在小妹阿姨家，那个圣诞节，大家都在，好公公，好婆婆。这些记忆历历在目。

我爸来美国后我们还说要一起去cruise，好好叙叙旧。他的离开真的很突然，我们都没有准备好。

Tom叔叔的一生充满了信念。即使在困难时刻，他也始终坚信着生活的美好，和对未来的憧憬。我觉得这一切都有严阿婆的祷告，信仰和引导。

今天，虽然我们感到失去他的悲痛，但我们也能从他的生命中感受到他充满信仰、希望和爱的精神。但我们也该为他高兴，因为他去的另一个世界充满了光明和无与伦比的爱。

人生百年，啥也没带来，啥也没拿走。但人与人之间真诚交往是灵魂之间的交流。留下的记忆，美好和爱是不是在这个世界上是永恒的。

最重要的是，让我们心中永存爱。那对他的爱，将永不消逝。爱超越了生命与死亡的界限。

贝贝 (Simon) , 11/22/2024

Simon Xuan - November 22, 2024 at 07:31 PM

SX

“文东逝世的追悼会壮严隆重，场面很大，表达了大家对文东小弟的哀思！Simon 带回来不少现场的照片，看了以后很是感动，引起了不少回忆！我们相识于当时最动乱、最困难的时期，建立了深厚的友谊。他的英年早逝让我们都非常痛心。请文东太太和家人节哀顺变，保重身体，照顾好家庭，以慰在天之灵！
宣家哥哥。 2024-11-4

Simon Xuan - November 22, 2024 at 07:22 PM

JF

“文东兄非常孝顺长辈，可從一事說起：他常年住在美國東部紐約，但為方便住在美國西岸年邁父母的親朋好友，他在舊金山再次安排一場婚禮。婚禮的禮儀也都尊重雙方父母的期待，辦得隆重又普實，每個環節都用心安排，一舉一動端莊得體，新婚佳人對長輩的尊重和互相間的恩愛在婚禮上展現得一覽無餘。

自從此後，我們之間平時開始不間斷地聯繫。文東是我的表兄，更是我的摯友，他講義氣重友情，關切親朋好友們的生活狀況，並總是詢問有什麼他可以幫忙。另外他把朋友對他一點幫助，一直記在心上。在交談中，他經常感謝我在他來三藩市期間為他租車的事。其實我都忘了。

文东兄對自己家族前輩們的歷史也很關心，這也慢慢成為我們近年來網上交流的主要內容。我記得有一次提到他的高祖父嚴信厚，一下子他的話匣子就被打開了，他對他祖輩們的傳奇人生經歷、經商哲學、對那代人....，談吐之間那種專注力和自豪感油然而生。可惜，因歷史的原因和收集資料的不健全，原本要為他家族出書的計劃沒能實現。希望有一天嚴家其他族人能與我一起圓他的夢。

願文東兄在彼岸安息，歲月悠長，你的音容永存世間。

弟 家祥

Jim Fong - November 22, 2024 at 06:54 AM

JF

“我们的表兄文东 (Tom Yan) 为人谦和善良，话语之间充满了关怀，同时又不乏幽默。他会在节假日或平时的忙碌中抽空打电话或发信息来关心问候我们，由于我们住在世界不同的地方，他第一句话总是询问他的来电是否会影响我们的作息，他会反复问候我们家大小最新状况的同时，讲述他太太Winnie和一双儿女如何如何，如数家珍，流露出抑制不住的内心喜悦和自豪，他也总不忘记叮嘱我们要珍惜眼下来之不易的幸福生活。

他有几次在我们的通话中特别提到他常路过我们曾在纽约居住过的一个小区，津津乐道地回忆起我们年轻时曾在纽约生活和工作中的点点滴滴，与我们一起重温了那段年轻和充实的人生经历。我们曾数次与家人来纽约州的长岛过节，每次他与太太都会亲自下厨，按我们喜欢的口味做丰盛的海鲜菜餚来款待我们，饭后叙旧聊天直到深夜，有次我们带着我们家的小狗路过长岛小，他还事先为小狗准备了个温馨的小床.....Tom 的突然离世对我们所有家人们来说有述说不尽的遗憾和十分不舍。但他的英容和笑声却会长久地迴盪在我们中间，愿他在天之灵得到永恒的安息，也愿他所有家人和后代幸福平安，后继有人，代代相传。

家祯、丽美

Jiazhen Fang - November 21, 2024 at 08:22 AM

PB

“ We will miss Tom so much. He was a friend of only 12 years but his warmth & sincere kindness will live on forever. He came to my estate sales & auctions regularly and always brought his big smile & good vibes! I'll miss his New Year's phone calls & messages wishing me & my family good health & prosperity. He was one in a million. Winnie, Audrey , Andrew and all of Tom's wonderful family are in our hearts. Much love, Patty & Neal Bloom

patty bloom - October 26, 2024 at 08:31 PM