



**The Unification Church**  
**North American Headquarters**

481 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10001

Tel: 212-997-0050 | Fax: 212-997-0051 | E-mail [admin@unification.org](mailto:admin@unification.org)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May the love and blessing of our Heavenly Parent and our True Parents be with each of your families.

Our beloved elder sister, Susan Hughes Oliver, passed away earlier this week. Our condolences and love go out to her family. Susan has represented the heart of our True Parents for many years through her dedication and victorious life of faith. As a devoted wife and mother, she has raised a beautiful blessed family. Let us join together in prayer for her peaceful transition to the spirit world and for what we know will be an exciting life in the new world she is about to enter.

God bless you Susan!

Sincerely,

Rev. Joshua Cotter  
Executive Vice-President  
HSA-UWC USA

---

**Note from Rev. Carl Swearson, District Director, Minneapolis**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This morning at approximately 3:45 AM (August 16), our dearly beloved sister, Susan Hughes Oliver, wife of Berlin Oliver, and mother of Nessia, Abelin and Beaumont, passed quietly in her sleep. Susan had been battling cancer for the past 10 years in various parts of her body.

Susan joined our family in 1968 in California. In 1972, Father sent her to join Betsy O'Brian in Minnesota, becoming their first State Leader. Many members joined over those next 3-1/2 years. Included below is the testimony she submitted to our Senior Pastor, In Jin Nim, when she visited Minneapolis in January 2009.

Susan also worked on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, doing witnessing and public relations. In 1982, she was blessed at Madison Square Garden. To her great joy, all three of her children are also blessed.

We all celebrate Susan's wonderful faith and heart. Our dear sister will be remembered for the great love she showed to so many of her friends and family. We love you, Susan!

### *Susan Oliver Family*

Husband: Berlin Oliver  
Mother-in Law: Dorris Oliver  
Siblings: Katherine Hughes Benson  
Children: Nessia, Abelin, Beaumont  
Daughter-in-Law: Sara Oliver

Susan's Seung Hwa Ceremony will be held on Thursday, August 19th, 2010 at 11:00 AM at the  
**Robert D. Brown Funeral Home**  
**103 4th Street**  
**Hillsboro, MO 63050**  
**636-789-4949**

Those wishing to send flowers can contact **Carousel Florist at 636-789-4300**

The Weon Jeon Ceremony (burial) will be held at 12:45 PM at  
Jefferson Barracks Cemetery  
2900 Sheridan Rd, St. Louis, MO 63125  
(314) 845-8319

---

### **Celebration of Susan Oliver's Life**

Susan was born in Fresno, California, the second of three children of John and Sarah Hughes. Her family moved frequently in those early days. She said it gave her a perspective that we need to be flexible in life and roll with the changes that are out of our control.

In high school, Susan discovered an interest in English and writing. She has an extensive collection of personal journals. Beginning in the 7th grade and continuing through college, Susan took classes in ballet, jazz and tap dancing. Education was always an important part of her life, an interest she inherited from both her parents.

Susan lost her father while she was in the 10th grade. This set her on a path to learn more about the world in a philosophical way. In high school, her concerns became: How can I become more at peace with myself and others, and, what can I do to help make a better world? This quest led her to the Unification Church in Berkeley in 1968, postponing college studies to become a full time missionary.

In 1972, she was assigned to establish a church center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was a difficult time for her, physically, especially during those long, cold winters. Susan taught and witnessed over the next four years. From there, she served as an Itinerate Worker throughout the United States, visiting members in small church settings.

Susan later served as a public relations representative on Capitol Hill and worked on the Inaugural Committee for President Reagan, as well as Staff Assistant to Congressman Oberstar of Minnesota. Susan also initiated and taught an experimental course on integrated education

under the Psychology Department at the University of California. Recognized as a gifted writer, she has written and edited numerous articles from a wide range of publications over the years.

In 1982, Susan was blessed in marriage to Berlin Oliver. At that time, she left her position as a reporter for the Washington Times to join Berlin in Jacksonville, Florida. Berlin did commercial fishing on the Atlantic Ocean, often being gone for more than a week at a time. During this 10 year period, their three children; Nessia, Abelin and Beaumont were born. In 1988, Susan moved with her family to Jackson, Mississippi. Berlin did three years of Public Relations work with legislators and clergy.

In 1991, the family moved to Hillsboro, where Susan worked as a reporter for the Jefferson County Journal and a case worker for the Division of Family Services. She retired after 11 years to help Berlin with his real estate management. Over the years Susan wrote many articles, many of which were published. She was a long time member of The Writer's Society of Jefferson County. Susan did everything with a smile and was always making new friends. We will miss you, Susan!

---

### **Some Words for Susan** by Helen Subernaut

I met Susan Hughes Oliver in Berkeley in the Fall of 1968. She was a high school senior, and her brother had told her and her sister, Kay, about the Unified Family. He asked me to teach them the Divine Principle. So every week I'd go to their house, or they'd come to the center.

I was the only sister living in the center at that time, with about 10 brothers. It was through Susan and Kay that I learned a very deep lesson I'll never forget.

In the Divine Principle, we are taught that God has masculine and feminine characteristics; and that love, the subject, calls for a response of beauty from the object. Also, that God, our Heavenly Father, as subject, wants to feel joy from His children, His creation, His objects.

That's the very clear and strong lesson I learned from teaching Susan and Kay--whenever they came to the center, the walls would ring with laughter, and even if the brothers weren't in the room with us, they could feel the joy, and commented on it. And even though I was in a mother's position in the center, I didn't fully realize the importance of beauty, and the deep feeling of joy, until Susan and Kay came along. Teaching them brought me so much joy, and their response was pure beauty.

Susan was impatient to move into the center. She became active in center life and a full-time university student. She was out there witnessing, teaching, even helping to run a center. She could do almost anything: she was a good communicator, and made a strong impression on everyone she met. She was never a doubter in her faith, which was deep, yet as innocent as a child's in her love for her Heavenly Father. When I left Berkeley in 1971; I didn't always know what Susan was doing, but I heard of her exploits, and knew, for example, she was called 'The Lady General' by David Kim because of her success in the mission field.

I moved to France in 1980 to join my husband, and was happy to learn of her Blessing to Berlin in 1982 in Madison Square Garden. A few years later Susan started writing me an annual Christmas letter, sharing with me the joys and sorrows of being a parent. I learned of various

tragedies, like Abelin nearly dying, and how she mobilized people to work with him in a special therapy, hoping he could have a normal life. That showed me once again what a fighter she was-- how much she could invest herself for those she loved, with a mother's heart and with the commitment of a general.

Later, I learned she had breast cancer, but then I lost contact with her for over a year. That was the beginning of the Internet and emails, for us in France, and I heard that one sister had died of breast cancer. I was afraid it was Susan. But I had no way of knowing.

In 2001 I went to Korea to participate in a 21 day women's meeting, and on the first day, to my great surprise, I found Susan there. We cried and embraced. We became inseparable during those 21 days, going through everything together, all the highs and lows, supporting each other. After that, we tried to meet up once a year when my son and I came back to the States for our summer vacation. Seeing Susan in full swing, with her family, in her job, with her friends. She was always joyous, full of fun and carefree, never down or depressed. Always watching out for those who might be suffering. She was often a mother to me, giving advice during my difficult times.

I'd often worry about her if more than a month went by without an email from her. But she'd always answer with 'Don't you worry your little head' or 'It's nothing to worry about.' So I didn't worry.

This time, when we came for our visit, I found Susan in good spirits, but rapidly declining physically. I was grateful to be able to accompany her during her last weeks and share her thoughts and feelings. She told the doctor on one visit that she wanted to live until January 13, 2013. On her last active day, she was so excited to go out with us on their boat, which she loved so much. But she said was so tired of always having to live from one doctor's appointment to the next, fearing to get the results from tests and examinations and scans, and now her body was failing her. When I last spoke to her, she was eager to discover what her Heavenly Father had in store for her and she wasn't afraid. She only worried, as any mother would, about those she left behind. She wanted them to know she'd always be with them.

Susan, thank you for your deep heart of faith, and for your life as a beautiful, loving daughter of our Heavenly Father. Thank you that I could be a part of your life. Godspeed in your new mission. You are now free from your suffering and free to be close to your Heavenly Father, and free to explore new horizons.

Love,  
Helen Ireland Subrenat