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In Memoriam

by Janneke Vermeulen ©

Personal memories to

Lillian Pearl Bridges

(1956-2021)



At the *British Conference of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine* in London (2009) I got to know Lillian Pearl Bridges from the USA: the world's leading expert in Chinese Face Reading and Diagnosis, also Five Element Feng Shui expert and founder of the Lotus Institute, Inc. A few weeks later, I invited Lillian to come and teach in the Netherlands. I wanted to bring such an inspiring teacher with such unique knowledge here. During the first seminar in Amsterdam in 2010 for the Golden Needle TCM College and a day of sightseeing afterwards, a special friendship was formed. After the following seminars, Lillian stayed over and did face readings in my practice for a few days. While I was needling, I occasionally heard excited calls that I had to come and have a look because there was something very special to see. Such as an abnormal curvature in the bridge of the nose that exactly matched the curvature in that person's spine.

Lillian was trained from the age of five by her face reading Chinese grandmother Mary Chen Lowe. So, before Lillian did her bachelor's degree in psychology, she had already completed many years of study! Result: a globetrotter who has taught in every corner of the globe, spoken at many conferences and conventions, delivered countless face readings, wrote her book *Face Reading in Chinese Medicine* (Second Edition in 2012 by Churchill Livingstone), spoke on radio programs and appeared on TV as in the Dr. Oz Show in 2013. For Lillian's Second Edition I took all the photos and working together for days - to get them ready for the publisher - strengthened our bond.

For everyone she spoke to, she did have a comment or recommendation that had an impact. She saw the beauty in someone's face and named it with heartfelt conviction.

After a short illness, Lillian passed away on September 26 in the presence of her two sons and daughter-in-law. The influence that Lillian had is evident from all the reactions when it turned out that she was ill and now after her passing. I feel blessed

that I was able to say goodbye to her eleven hours before she passed away via a FaceTime video call (the travel ban due to COVID-19 made flying still impossible), to express my gratitude for the soul friendship, to tell her what she has meant to me and to so many other people and finally got to play my own creation on the piano for her.

Lillian inspired me to write my book *Diving Medical Acupuncture*, to use *Mermaid Medicine* (once jokingly mentioned by me as a possible title for my book) as a practice name - because according to her that told exactly what I am doing - and took away a last doubt to start my PhD study with a "200% yes"! She helped people with their *Ming* (called destiny or *Golden Path*).

The Chinese Medicine world has lost a very special speaker and writer and I my dearest friend as well. Fortunately, many of Lillian's classes have been recorded, there are books, medical journals and magazines so that her knowledge, wisdom and the traces of her charismatic personality are not lost.

When someone died, Lillian always said it was simply "her or his time" and there was nothing you could have done to prevent it. Now we have to accept that it was her time while she was busy teaching, writing several books and wanting to write many others.

Her comforting words after the death of my mother were: "You never get over losing people you love – you just get better in living without them...". Now we also have to deal with those words.

Dear Lillian, Wishing you a safe journey and a spiritual adventure in the cosmos!
Your friend, Janneke