



Meeja H. Cho

January 17, 1942 - April 24, 2026

Ms. Meeja Cho, 84, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2026 after a long valiant battle with dementia. She was born in Incheon, South Korea on January 17, 1942, to Mr. Woon Joun Cho, an Elementary School Principal and Mrs. Bock Soo Choi, a Homemaker. She was the fourth eldest amongst six siblings.

Ms. Meeja Cho, 84, passed away peacefully on April 24, 2026, after a long and valiant battle with dementia. She was born in Incheon, South Korea, on January 17, 1942, to Mr. Woon-joon Cho, an elementary school principal, and Mrs. Bock-soo Choi, a homemaker. She was the fourth eldest among six siblings.

Ms. Cho graduated from the Seoul National University College of Music as a virtuoso pianist. At a time when few women attended university in Korea, she became the first member of her family to matriculate at Seoul National University, Korea's most prestigious university, where women comprised only a small minority of students. Coming from outside Seoul made this achievement even more notable. Though quiet and modest by nature, she possessed a deep inner determination that would shape the course of her life.

She married Dr. Kang Yu, a psychiatrist who also graduated from Seoul National University, and they immigrated to Brooklyn, New York, in 1968. Like many new immigrants from vastly different cultures, she faced the challenges

of adapting to a new country during a period when there were very few Koreans in the United States and little Korean community infrastructure. A few years later, she made the courageous decision to divorce her husband and build an independent life for herself and her young son, Joseph.

With the support of her sisters who helped care for Joseph while Ms. Cho attended graduate school. Determined to reset her life, Meeja Cho returned to school and earned a Master's degree in Education from New York University, overcoming limited English proficiency and the demands of raising a young child. At a time when very few Koreans were pursuing higher education in the United States, she began building a piano teaching career from the ground up, driving throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Long Island to teach students while supporting her family as a single mother.

Initially living in a small one-bedroom apartment in Midwood, Brooklyn, Ms. Cho traveled to her students' homes to provide instruction. After years of hard work and careful saving, she purchased her first co-op apartment in Homecrest, Brooklyn, and converted part of it into a piano studio. She later settled in New Springville, Staten Island, where she purchased a townhouse and transformed the basement into a piano studio where she taught students for many years.

She is survived by her devoted son, Joseph Yu, an FDNY EMS Lieutenant/Paramedic. She is also survived by her sisters, In-Hui Park, Haeng-Ja Han, and Whaja Park. She was predeceased by her parents, Woon-joon Cho and Bock-soo Choi, as well as her brother, Dong-hui Cho.

The family will receive friends from 11:30 PM to 1:30 PM on Sunday, May 10, 2026, at John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc., 28 Eltingville Blvd,

Staten Island, New York.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.scaliahome.com

Previous Events

Service

MAY 10. 1:00 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Visitation

MAY 10. 11:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals, Inc.
28 Eltingville Blvd
Staten Island, NY 10312

Tribute Wall



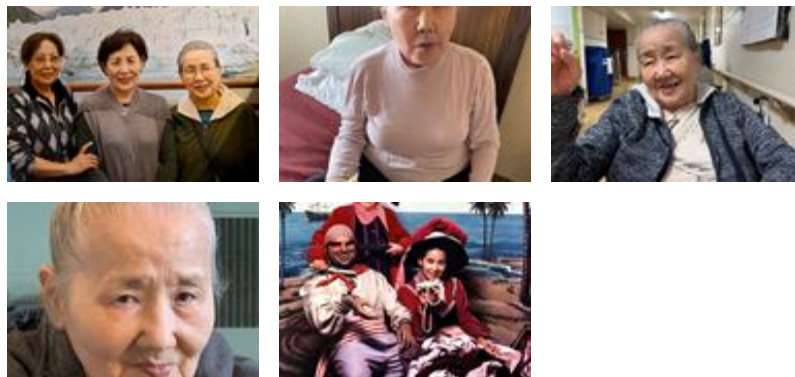
“ *John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Meeja H. Cho*



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - May 09 at 11:52 AM



“ *29 files added to the album Life Tributes*



John Vincent Scalia Home for Funerals Inc. - May 09 at 11:49 AM



“ *Dear Aunt Meeja,*

*We will always remember your grace, kindness, and caring heart.
Your memory will remain with us always.
Sending our love and prayers.*

Insup, Hyeseon, Haengja, Dukki

Insup Han - May 06 at 07:18 AM



“ *Brian Park lit a candle in memory of Meeja H. Cho*



Brian Park - May 05 at 08:43 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Meeja,
May your memory be a blessing. We will miss you.
-Brian, Eugene and Whaja*

Brian Park - May 05 at 06:04 PM