



Joseph Karl Sheya

April 23, 1949 - September 12, 2014

Joseph Karl Sheya of Stevensville, MD, died suddenly on Friday, September 12, 2014.

Born in San Francisco, CA, on April 23, 1949, he was a son of the late George and Elfrieda Heinemann Sheya.

Joe is survived by his wife Carol McDermott; two daughters, Katherine Al-Banna, her husband, Reyadh, and their precious daughter Emma of Arnold, Lindsay Shearer and her husband Evan of Charlotte, NC; four brothers and sisters, George Sheya of Woodbridge, VA, Pam Bergsma of West Palm Beach, FL, and Robert Sheya and Kathy Coombs, of Alexandria, VA.

Joe enjoyed diving, motorcycle riding, cruising in his boat on the Chesapeake Bay and bicycle riding. He taught at Anne Arundel County Schools for over 30 years, was a Reiki Master, a Grand Master of Hapkido, taught in his own Do Jang and had four schools run by his students.

But his true love was his family. His last two years have been filled with the joy of being Papi to his beloved granddaughter Emma, the only person able to completely control him. He adored and treasured the time he had with his daughters and sons. His wife will miss his warmth, care, and love of adventure. His strong, loving, and generous nature enriched all of their lives

and the lives of his dear friends. He will be so missed.

A memorial mass will be held at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Queenstown, MD, September 17, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Previous Events

Mass

SEP **17**. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
5319 Ocean Gateway
Queenstown, MD

Tribute Wall



“ *Joseph Karl Sheya*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Joseph Karl Sheya*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Joseph Karl Sheya*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *The lessons learned from Mr. Sheya, both in class and outside of class, remain with us years following our graduation, and will remain with us for many years to come. He has touched the lives of countless future engineers, and has made us who we are today. We cannot express both our tremendous gratitude for his enthused and life-altering teaching style, or our heartfelt sympathy to his co-workers and family. Thank you Mr. Sheya for making us what we are today. Brendan Goodrich, Cornell 15; Tyler Pitkanen, Maryland 15; Richie Bates, Maryland 15.*

Brendan Goodrich - October 11, 2014 at 11:04 PM

BP

“ Words could never do justice to how good of a man Joe was, he was my hero and role model growing up ever since I met him as a teacher at my High School. His ability to teach people, his patience and tolerance, and his ability to understand anyone and reach out to them is unmatched.

He will always be missed, I cannot believe this happened. This world has lost one of the best humans that I have ever known to walk this planet.

I wish the best for his family, and I hope that you can heal from these wounds as best as you can.

I feel that words can never do him justice for all of the positive change he has made in this world, all of the lives he has touched, and the flawlessness of his person and character. There is nobody in this world who can replace him, nobody who can fill his shoes, and it is a terrible tragedy that we have lost him. If I had to trust one person with my life, it would have been him, and I will forever regret not keeping in better touch with him while I still had the absolute unmatched honor to have known him while he was still here.

He changed my life in ways I cannot even bring myself to describe, that truly saved my life. I was going through some very hard times in my life, and he taught me how to take a new perspective on almost everything around me, and I will forever regret that I could not have spent more time with him while he was still with us. His family is truly blessed to have gotten to spend the time with him that they did.

Benjamin Plonk - September 21, 2014 at 03:07 AM

BH

“ Joe touched many lives in a positive way. He had the purest of hearts and his actions were always to do what was right. I had the pleasure of working with him for 8 years. One of our coworkers said yesterday that it was great to be his friend; you didn't want to be his enemy, but even there, that didn't last long because his enemies became his friends. He always told his students to "go change the world as we know it". I think that's a great idea for all of us. Let's honor Joe by continuing to make the world a better place!

May we always remember Joe Sheya with a smile. I will always be honored to call you my friend.

Brad

Brad Hill - September 17, 2014 at 03:44 PM

RM

“ He was one of the best High School teachers I ever had, and being in his POE class is by far one of my favorite high school memories. He will be greatly missed. My sincerest condolences to his family.
~Rachel Myers

Rachel Myers - September 17, 2014 at 03:16 PM

RS

“ Our thoughts & prayers go to Joe's family and friends. although we only knew him a very short time, Joe was without doubt one of the nicest, most genuine people we've ever met. he will be missed and thought of fondly...

Rich & Cary Smithson

rich Smithson - September 17, 2014 at 02:07 PM

BF

“ *Joe was a rare human being. A gift to us all. A great man who will be missed by so many. Our hearts are broken for Carol and the rest of his family. You are all in our prayers.*

Love,

Bonnie , Tom, Thomas, and Kevin Fox

Bonnie Fox - September 17, 2014 at 12:28 PM

“ Part 2 - there was not enough room to put everything I wrote into one entry:

On Saturday, after hearing of Joe's passing, I was looking through some of the emails we sent to each other. Usually my emails were at least a couple paragraphs and his reply, if there was one, was only a sentence or two. He preferred to talk to people directly rather than email and would often reply to my emails with a phone call. But there was one email he forwarded to me and several other people. I do not know who wrote the original email, so I apologize if the person who wrote it is reading this, and thank you for writing it. There were a few sentences that stood out to me: "In cooperating and relating to others we unite for the purpose of achieving something grand...In uniting with others, we become a more valuable member of our world; we make a contribution...We have purpose." Joe united with others regularly through Hapkido, and teaching, and everything else he did. He did, indeed, achieve something grand. In between saving people, and helping people, he lived a full life, on his terms, with enthusiasm, and he loved all of his family and friends with a boundless, all encompassing, enthusiastic love. He was one of my greatest supporters and had confidence in me even when I did not have confidence in myself. One of the last times we spoke I was able to tell him how grateful I was to have him in my life all these years and how much his presence influenced my life. I always knew I could count on him for advice, words of wisdom, words to strengthen me when I needed it, and I knew that if there were ever a time when I needed saving, he would be there for me. In the time that I have known him, he has become one of my best friends.

Carol, I am so, so sorry for your loss. Joe loved you with all his heart, and as much as he was an angel to all of his friends, I know he was even more of an angel to you.

Joe, I will miss you forever. If spirits can, indeed, visit us, you'd better show up occasionally, or I will have to find a way to kick your

butt the next time I get to see you.

Cathy Money - September 17, 2014 at 11:35 AM

“ There is not enough space in one entry to put all of what I wrote, so this will be in two parts. Part 1:

I met Joe in 2000, at a Christmas party. His quiet presence that night struck me, and we ended up exchanging phone numbers for the possibility of future Reiki. I found out later that he was not always as quiet as he was that night, with so many wonderful stories to tell. It turned out that I not only would go on to receive Reiki from him, but also had the wonderful opportunity to take Hapkido from him. Some of my favorite memories of him are from after Hapkido, on Friday nights, having dinner with the Hapkido group at Court of Shanghi. Our group often took up a large part of the restaurant. He told wonderful stories those Fridays, about his life, his adventures diving, and also a couple of his real life uses of Hapkido. One night I got my food before he did. I always ordered steamed chicken and vegetables, and on this night he was staring at my plate. I thought maybe he was hungry so I offered him some. His reply was, “No thanks. I can boil my own chicken at home.” I guess he was staring at the food because he was wondering why I kept ordering boiled chicken week after week...

Joe was also a teacher at Severna Park during my time living in Maryland, and both my daughters had the opportunity to have him as an instructor, back when he was working in the trailer that did career testing. They enjoyed his class and had good things to say about him and the class. Over the years, Joe and I became good friends and talked regularly. He always talked about his love for Carol and their family. It was clear that he was extremely happy having them all in his life, and that he loved being married to Carol.

After I moved back home, to St. Louis, Joe and I kept in touch through phone calls and emails. We could go for months without hearing from one another and then one of us would call and we were able to pick up where we had left off, just with more stories to tell. He told me of at least two or three times that he saved women who were being abused in their homes, at least one of which would

have surely died if Joe had not been nearby. Because of his training, experience, and courage, he was able to step into these situations and handle them without getting hurt. He was always saving someone or helping someone. I know that the timing of when I met him was perfect, and he helped me tremendously. I am sure my life would have been different without his words, his healing strength of Reiki, and his willingness to adopt me into the Hapkido family. He and I once found ourselves needing to give CPR to a friend of his at his home, with another of Joe's friends there on the phone with 911. It was the first time both of us had ever given CPR and we would occasionally discuss it all again over the years. At this friend's funeral, Joe gave the eulogy. He talked about the funny times and the good times that he and his friend had shared over the years. His eulogy made people laugh and cry and feel better. Because of Joe's example, I had the courage to give a eulogy six months later, when my dad suddenly passed away from a heart attack. Afterwards, I told Joe that I had noticed people crying while I was talking and that this made me pause a couple times. He stated that helping each other cry is what we are supposed to do at a funeral. We come together to mourn together, and to help each other begin to work through the loss, in an environment where it is acceptable to cry as much as we need to.

Cathy Money - September 17, 2014 at 11:31 AM



“ *Melissa Dafnis lit a candle in memory of Joseph Karl Sheya*



Melissa Dafnis - September 17, 2014 at 10:35 AM



“ *Joseph Sensei was one of my top favorite teachers at Severna park high school . His media class is what gave me the final push I needed to get into photography and film making. He was an all-round epic guy and im gonna miss hearing his stories... he will be greatly missed and my heart goes out to his family*

Naveen Srinivasan - September 17, 2014 at 09:45 AM

FR

I like your description of Joe as epic. In his honor, watch 2 movies: "Titanic" and then anything with bugs, slime, and other gore "that a 6th grade boy would like", as he put it. Joe will be there right next to you for both genres, soaking it up.

Frances - September 18, 2014 at 08:07 PM



“ *Master Joe was nothing less than the finest human being I've ever met. He was stern but never unfair, a fiercely powerful spirit matched only by his gracious heart. What I learned from him at Severna Park High helped shape me into the adult I've become and continues to guide me. Even when I was no longer his student, he'd greet me like an old friend every time I stopped by his classroom. I was just some socially awkward kid back then, I didn't really do anything to deserve such kindness. But that's just the kind of man he was-- he saw the best in every single one of us. The world feels like an emptier place without Joe, but our lives are much richer because of him, and nothing can take that away. My warmest condolences to his family, rest easy Sensei.*

Keith Acton - September 17, 2014 at 08:55 AM



“ *Some of my favorite times at Severna park high school was spent in this mans class room. He was by far my favorite teacher and educator. He will truly be missed by the many people that had the pleasure to know this great man.*

David Leesnitzer - September 17, 2014 at 06:43 AM



“ *Joe Sheya was a great person and a good friend. He was very knowledgeable on many subjects; however, he was humble and willing to learn from others, which is a rare quality that few possess. His knowledge of martial arts was amazing. I enjoyed my time with Joe in the shooting sports and later as one of his Hapkido students. Joe was a lot of fun and always in high spirit, a true optimist. He will be missed...*

Kenny Clawson - September 16, 2014 at 05:48 PM



“ *We wish to express our sympathy in your loss and let you know that our thoughts are with you.
James, Anna & staff.
Court of shanghai.*

james and anna han - September 16, 2014 at 12:59 PM



“ *I will truly miss Joe Sheya. He was very supportive of the SPHS Dance program and always provided assistance when I needed help. He had so much energy and was so full of life. I too, wish I would have done a better job of staying in touch. To the family of Joe Sheya, my thoughts and prayers are with you. And to Joe, you have left us too soon. I love you dearly.*

marlene scott - September 16, 2014 at 12:57 PM

MS

“ *Marlene Scott lit a candle in memory of Joseph Karl Sheya*



marlene scott - September 16, 2014 at 12:50 PM

GK

“ *Joe Sheya was the true epitome of the meaning of the word "gentleman." A bright and shining light has gone out on this earth with his passing but we can be sure that Joe will be watching us with the love and caring that he always did.*

I am very fortunate to have had the honor of knowing Joe and my life is better for his having been a part of it.

Greg King

Greg King - September 16, 2014 at 12:06 PM

VI

“ *TO ALL OF JOE'S FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!*

This is very sad news! Bob and I have many great memories of Joe when we worked at Mears Point Marina with him! He was a man of many talents and everyone had great respect for Joe! Our hearts go out to you all and we will be praying that God will help you through this most difficult time! Anyone who knew him will have a memory of him that will bring a smile to your face!

val whaley ivins and bob ivins

val whaley ivins - September 16, 2014 at 11:15 AM

JB

“ I honestly can say I have never known a more genuine person in my life. Joe not only was my teacher at sphs but a true friend who taught me many life lessons. I always loved coming to Maryland and catching up over breakfast. He was full of life and love and he will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

jesse brazell - September 16, 2014 at 10:02 AM



dude we were so lucky to have some great teachers back in high school, but mister sheya was the absolute best. demonstrating those martial arts moves in the classroom? unreal. great, great times.

Keith Acton - September 17, 2014 at 09:05 AM

FA

“ Joe was the first person to suggest that I meditate. That was 20 years ago! I said that I was afraid it would change me into to something or someone I would not recognize. He patiently and wisely assured me "you'll just find more of yourself". Two months ago, when a counselor suggested I try meditation, I finally gave in to simply breathing. I reported to the counselor that Joe Sheya was right. I found the pleasure of just Being, like I do underwater. If I was able to tell Joe that story, he'd probably chuckle and say "It's hard being a father to so many".

Frances Akridge - September 15, 2014 at 10:46 PM

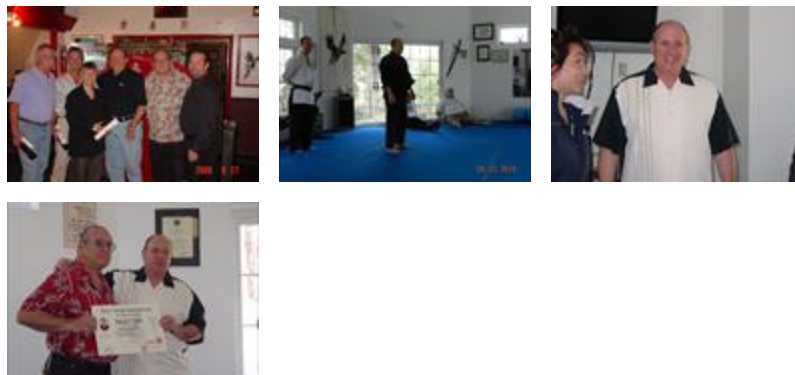
CH

“ Life is too short. Mr. Sheya meant so much to so many people and touched so many lives Including mine. He looked out for me in high school- acted as a second father. I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for him. I know I didn't stay in touch over the years like I should have. I regret it now more than ever. And I also know I should have said this sooner, but thank you Mr. Sheya , I'll never forget you. You changed my life for the better. I'm truly going to miss you. RIP.

Chelsea - September 15, 2014 at 09:23 PM

EL

“ 4 files added to the album Hapkido



Elaine - September 15, 2014 at 08:14 PM

EL

“ 1 file added to the album Hapkido



Elaine - September 15, 2014 at 08:07 PM

EL

“ 1 file added to the album Hapkido



Elaine - September 15, 2014 at 08:05 PM

GS

“ 4 files added to the album New Album Name



George Sheya - September 14, 2014 at 10:52 PM

CM

“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Cathy Money - September 14, 2014 at 08:29 PM

CM

“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Cathy Money - September 14, 2014 at 08:21 PM

GS

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



George Sheya - September 14, 2014 at 06:02 PM

SS

“ *Joe was a very special person. We knew Joe from working at Corkran Middle School. Ed remembers him up in the weight room. Very positive attitude and encouragement shared with Ed and his two girls. For me, he always had a smile and kind words to say. There is much sadness in his passing as well as shock. He led others and believed in a healthy lifestyle. He is so missed. Prayers to his family and friends. With love and our deepest sympathy, Sharon and Ed Shuttleworth*

Sharon Shuttleworth - September 14, 2014 at 05:14 PM



Jennifer
Mondelli
Ingram

“ I've felt many emotions upon hearing of Joe's passing.... sadness that so many will miss him... smiles and happiness to have had the opportunity to spend special moments and events with him and joy in witnessing his enthusiasm for Life as a husband, father, "Papi", friend and mentor to many. With Love, Jennifer and John Ingram

Jennifer Mondelli Ingram - September 14, 2014 at 02:51 PM

SC

Having taught with Joe, and attempted my hand at Hapkido with him, I can tell you not a gentler, more sincere man could you find. Joe was always so much more than a teacher, he was a genuine confidant, and made his life's work about the students always becoming their best and feeling positive about the accomplishments that they made. He was a caring man, with a tremendous capacity to share himself and zest for life, with others. He will be missed. Prayers for his family.

Steve Cahoon - September 14, 2014 at 05:44 PM

SH

Joe's buoyant zest for teaching enriched the short time I spent teaching Media Production in the tech ed wing of SPHS. I enjoyed his company and his insights about life and learning. My thoughts are with his family and the many who loved him.

Sabra Hill - September 15, 2014 at 06:03 AM

TF

I have known Joe as a friend and fellow martial artist for the past three decades. His powerful energy and compassion allowed him to have a positive affect so many people. He was certainly one of the best martial artists I have ever had the pleasure to train with. But Joe was so much more; he was kind, considerate, and just a delightful human being. Whether it was spreading his unique style of martial arts or simply helping others, he was always a positive force of the universe. He was the kind of person that made you to want to be better. In the short time he was here he inspired so many of us. I will miss seeing Joe here on earth. But I know his energy will flow through his students, family and friend in a way that will continue his legacy of good works. I feel privileged to have been Joe's friend and I will carry him in my heart every day.

Tom Fox - September 15, 2014 at 03:18 PM